Gillette book of the FAI CUP

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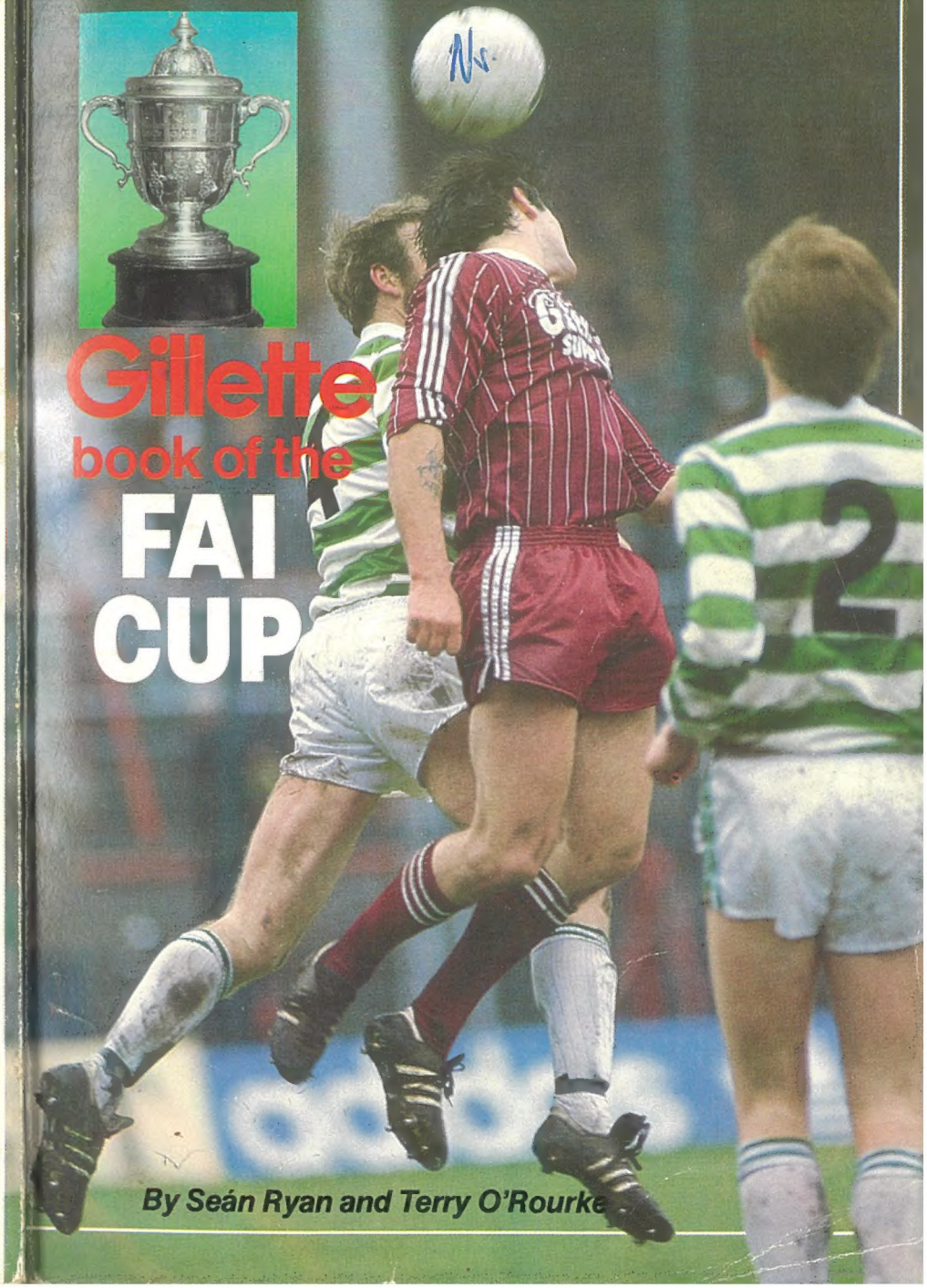

By Seán Ryan and Terry O'Rourke

THE RECORD MAKERS . . . Johnny Fullam, left, and William "Sacky" Glen, the only players to win eight F.A.I. Cup medals, pictured looking at some of Glen's photos. [Irish Independent].

The Gillette Book of the FAI Cup

-1963-

Home form = Drumcondra

Final Hosts = Ballybofey

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The aim of the Irish Soccer Co-Op. is to publish accurate records of the game in Ireland. Members who worked on this book were: Seán Ryan, Terry O'Rourke and Ray McManus (Sportsfile). Members Stephen Burke and Seán Ryan are currently working on a Book of Irish Goal Scorers – *all the League of Ireland goal scorers since 1921–22.*

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Foreword

The Gillette Book of the FAI Cup is designed to fill a vacuum in Irish football records. It is not intended as a definitive history of the Cup, rather it is an anecdotal record, relying mainly on interviews with the key personalities involved down through the years, plus all the vital statistics which every football fan loves to have for handy reference.

A special effort has been made to include the Christian names or, failing that, the nicknames of every player who lined out in a Cup final, but lack of evidence foiled us on a small number of occasions. It is my hope that the *Gillette Book* will be made available to someone, somewhere, who will be able to fill the gaps in those lineouts. Similarly, I am sure that not all of the Cup stories I have chosen for the chapters of this first edition are necessarily the best available. Not everybody with a good story was accessible and some who were, were either too shy or too modest to impart the information they possessed. In other cases, it wasn't possible to check out the facts offered and those stories, good as they were, had to be eliminated.

Editor.

St. James's Gate, winners of the F.A.I. Cup and the Free State League, 1921-22. From left, back row: R. McDonald, J. Ronan, M. Kane, A. Molloy, Jas. Donnelly, E. Dunne, J. Carter. Middle row: J. Heslin (trainer), Jno. Donnelly, J. Carey, J. Kelly, P. Coleman, W. O'Shea, P. Duncan, P. Edney. Front row: M. Richardson (chairman), T. Murphy, E. McKay, F. Heaney (capt.), R. Carter, J. Kavanagh, T. B. Aungier (hon. secretary). In front: C. Dowdall, J. Gargan.

CHAPTER 1

1922: Revolver Halts the 'Terrors'

SHAMROCK ROVERS have covered themselves in glory down the years in the FAI Cup but such was not the case in 1922 when, as a Leinster League side, they contested the very first competition for the then Free State Challenge Cup. The competition was run off in the interim period between the ending of the Black-and-Tan War and the start of the Civil War, and the background of those turbulent times had a part to play.

Rovers became known as 'the terrors of football' as they fought their way to the Leinster League title and then to the final of the Free State Cup. Their robust style, epitomised in players like William 'Sacky' Glen, Dinny 'Nettler' Doyle and the legendary Bob Fullam, plus their vociferous support drawn from the Ringsend area, intimidated most opponents but their Cup final opposition, Saint James's Gate, were a worthy exception.

Most of the Gate's players had proved their mettle in Cup competition when winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Cup in 1920 and they had just finished convincing winners of the inaugural Free State League Championship. In addition, their half-back line of Ernie McKay, Frank Heaney and Bob Carter, was reckoned to be so tall that 'you'd need a ladder to get over them' as 'Sacky' Glen later put it.

Rovers accounted for League clubs Olympia, Dublin United and Bohemians on their way to the final; while the Gate, who were naturally installed as favourites, had beaten Jacobs and Shelbourne (after a replay).

The final ended in a 1–1 draw, but it was the aftermath of the

replay which showed up those early Rovers in a bad light. The Gate prevailed by 1–0 and, when the final whistle went, some Rovers supporters climbed over the palings and attacked the winning team. Rovers players joined in the fray and when the Gate eventually made their way to their dressingroom they were followed by at least three of the Rovers team.

Rovers' captain, Bob Fullam, had a score to settle with Charlie Dowdall. Apparently they had tussled during the game and, when Fullam protested, Dowdall put his finger to his nose, a gesture which didn't go down well with the Ringsender.

Fullam was one of the Rovers players who invaded the Gate's dressingroom but, as he advanced on Dowdall, the latter's brother Jack, who had just recently seen active service with the IRA, produced his revolver – and that was the end of that. At least, it put a sudden end to Rovers' invasion, but the matter was thrashed out again when an FAI Committee investigated the after-match incidents. As a result of their findings, Bob Fullam received one month's suspension, John Joe Flood three months, and Dinny Doyle six months, In addition, Rovers' Committee were reminded that the club is responsible for the conduct of its players.

It was a sorry start to a great club's involvement with the Blue Riband of Irish Soccer, but it is to their credit that they learned their lesson and proceeded to play a brand of football that won for them the admiration of the Dublin public. Even though hit by the suspensions of three key players, they ran away with the Free State League title at their first attempt the following season and established themselves as the glamour club of Free State football, a title they have only relinquished on rare occasions since.

FIRST ROUND

January 14	**DUBLIN UNITED** ..... 8 Capstick 3, Millings 3, B. Byrne, Harling		**FRANKFORT** ..... 1 Gillespie	
	OLYMPIA ..... 1 C. Pemberton		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Flood, Cowzer 2	
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 3 O'Shea, Kelly 2		**JACOBS** ..... 1 Smith	
	WEST HAM ..... 0 **(Belfast)**		**SHELBOURNE** 0	
	YMCA ..... 3 Lee 2, Wilson		**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 4 James Sweeney 2, Ghent, John Sweeney pen.	

BYE: BOHEMIANS

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

January 21	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Cannon 2		**WEST HAM** ..... 1 **(Belfast)** Kerr	

SECOND ROUND

January 28	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 7 Kirwan 3, Robinson 2, McIlroy, Willits		**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 1 James Sweeney	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 5 Fullam 2, Cowzer 2, Flood		**DUBLIN UNITED** ..... 1 Ardiff	

BYES ..... **SHELBOURNE and ST. JAMES'S GATE**

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 18	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 0		**SHELBOURNE** 0	
February 25	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Flood		**BOHEMIANS** 0	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 4	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 2 Duncan, Dowdall		**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Hamilton	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Kelly		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Campbell	

St. James's Gate: Paddy 'Bucky' Coleman, Tom 'Spud' Murphy, J. 'Fatty' Kavanagh, Ernie McKay, Frank Heaney, Bob Carter, Johnny Carey, Jack Kelly, Paddy 'Dirty' Duncan, Charlie Dowdall, Johnny Gargan.

Shamrock Rovers: –. Nagle, J. J. Jim Kelly, P. 'Weaser' Warren, William 'Sacky' Glen, Joe 'Buller' Byrne, Harry Birthistle, Charlie Campbell, Bob Cowzer, John Joe Flood, Bob Fullam, Dinny 'Nettler' Doyle.

Attendance: 15,000 **Receipts: £636.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 8	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Kelly		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0	

St. Jame's Gate: Bill O'Shea for Carter. **Shamrock Rovers:** Unchanged.

Attendance: 10,000 **Receipts: £407.**

Alton United, 1923. From left, back row: Billy Duffy, Edward McNeill, James Maguinness, Paddy Devlin, Hugh Bell, Michael Brennan. Front row: Andy McSherry, Hugh McCann, Bobby Loughran, Sam Ward, Thomas Gough. Missing: Jack Russell.

CHAPTER 2

1923: The Men from The Falls

COMPARISONS between the standards of soccer, North and South, were inevitable in the years immediately after the split of 1921 and, in that respect, Free State morale suffered a bad blow when the Cup was won in 1923 by a junior team from The Falls Road, Belfast.

At the time, Belfast Celtic were out of Irish League football – they returned in 1924 – and many of the players, who would normally aspire to playing with Celtic, paraded their talents in The Falls League, whose clubs affiliated to the Free State FA.

Alton United, who won the Belfast & District competition to qualify for the Cup proper, had a good pedigree as they had won the All-Ireland Junior Cup in 1920, under the title United, only acquiring the Alton pre-fix when they moved into Clubrooms above the Alton Bar. Their captain and centre-half, Michael Brennan, was a member of both Cup-winning teams and later played for Tranmere Rovers and Belfast Celtic. He was also chosen as a reserve for the IFA's international team. In later years he was a well-known boxing referee.

Most of the Alton players were labourers working on the Belfast docks. As amateurs, their progress to the Cup final, which was played on Saint Patrick's Day in Dalymount Park, was a costly business and they needed financial assistance from The Falls League to subsidise their trip to Dublin.

En route to the final they disposed of Midland Athletic, Shelbourne United and Fordsons, but they were regarded as rank outsiders in the final against a star-studded Shelbourne side, which

had beaten Bray Unknowns, Cup-holders Saint James's Gate, and Jacobs. Shelbourne's half-back line included the legendary Val Harris and Mick 'Boxer' Foley, both international players with years of English soccer under their belts.

Harris, Foley and goalkeeper Paddy Walsh were all seeking to become the first players to win IFA and Free State Cup medals. Harris had won IFA Cup medals with Shelbourne in 1906 and 1920; while Foley and Walsh were team-mates in the 1920 success. Harris had also won an All-Ireland medal in Gaelic football with Dublin in 1901.

The fact that the country was still in an unsettled state was underlined by Alton United's dramatic arrival in Dublin on Cup final day, when they were escorted from Amiens Street station to Dalymount by an armed guard provided by the IRA. Whether this had an intimidating effect on their opponents is impossible to ascertain but Shelbourne certainly played well below their usual form and went under 1–0. Shelbourne supporters firmly believe this defeat set in train a Cup hoodoo which wasn't dispelled until the Cup was won for the first time in 1939.

Although Alton's players received their medals, they were not able to take the Cup back to Belfast because of the troubles in the North at the time. In fact, they didn't have a very long reign as Cup holders for, apart from not taking the Cup home, shortly afterwards they decided to affiliate to the IFA for the 1923–24 season.

FIRST ROUND

January 6	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 4 McSherry, Ward 3	**MIDLAND ATHLETIC** ..... 0 **(Abandoned 2nd half: bad light)**
	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 McNulty	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Fagan 2
	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Robinson	**SHELBOURNE UNITED** ... 2 McLean, Redmond
	FORDSONS ..... W.O.	**RATHMINES UNITED** . SCR.
	JACOBS ..... 4 Smith 3, Byrne	**PIONEERS** 0
	OLYMPIA ..... 0 **(At St. James's Park)**	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Duncan
	SHELBOURNE ..... 9 Doyle 5, Williams 2, Wilson, Delaney	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0
January 7	**DUBLIN UNITED** ..... 3 P. Carroll, Rushe, Murtagh	**SLIGO CELTIC** ..... 3 Tiernan 2, Dykes

FIRST ROUND RE-FIXTURE

January 13	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 5 Ward 3, Duffy, Brennan pen.	**MIDLAND ATHLETIC** 0

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

January 14	**SLIGO CELTIC** 0	**DUBLIN UNITED** 0

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 28	**DUBLIN UNITED** ..... 3 Rushe 2, McGuinness	**SLIGO CELTIC** ..... 1 Lynch o.g.

SECOND ROUND

January 20	**SHELBOURNE UNITED** ... 1 McLean	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 1 Duffy
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 Kelly	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Wilson 2
January 21	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Fullam pen.	**JACOBS** ..... 2 Houston, Smith
February 4	**DUBLIN UNITED** ..... 2 Campbell, Rushe	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 O'Sullivan 3

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 27	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 2 Ward, McSherry	**SHELBOURNE UNITED** ... 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 17	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 4 Ward 3, Brennan pen.	**FORDSONS** ..... 2 Buckle 2
March 3	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Harvey, Williams	**JACOBS** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	**ALTON UNITED** ..... 1 McSherry	**SHELBOURNE** 0

Alton United: James Maginnis, Edward McNeill, Hugh Bell, Paddy Devlin, Michael Brennan, Bobby Loughran, Andy McSherry, Billy Duffy, Sammy Ward, Jack Russell, Hugh McCann.

Shelbourne: Paddy Walsh, Paddy 'Yoddy' Kavanagh, James 'Sally' Connolly, Dan Delaney, Val Harris, Mick 'Boxer' Foley, Eddie Brierley, Stephen Doyle, Jimmy Harvey, Ralph Ardiff, Sammy Wilson.

Attendance: 14,000 **Receipts: £694/11/0.**

CHAPTER 3

1924: Hannon Shows How

SOCCER in Ireland, in the early years of this century, was known as a 'garrison game', due to the fact that it flourished in those towns and cities which housed a garrison of the British occupying forces. So it was no surprise when the first all-provincial final in the Free State Cup featured teams from Cork and Athlone, towns which had housed substantial British garrisons only three years previously.

The strength of the game in these towns is best underlined by the fact that Athlone Town, the winners of the 1924 final, fielded no less than seven local players. Two of the others were from the same county, with goalkeeper Paddy O'Reilly (from Dublin) and centre-half John Joe Dykes (Sligo), the only outsiders.

Athlone, who disposed of Midland Athletic, Shelbourne and Bohemians on the way to the Saint Patrick's Day final against Fordsons, didn't concede a goal in their victorious campaign and this feat wasn't equalled until 1958. Ironically, Fordsons, who were a non-League team at the time, only conceded one goal in their Cup run – and that was the lone goal of the final.

Fittingly, the goal was scored by inside-right Dinny Hannon, probably the most famous Athlone player of all time. By 1924 he was in the twilight of his career, the majority of which had been spent with Bohemians. As a student first and later as a solicitor, he had been a loyal member of the Dublin club and helped them to their historic win in the IFA Cup in 1908.

Although he was an amateur, he was capped six times by the IFA between 1908 and 1913, and he also won five amateur caps between 1908 and 1920. While with Athlone, he won two amateur caps with

the Free State team in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. Athlone's Cup success enabled him to become the first holder of both IFA and Free State FA Cup medals.

Hannon was probably a surprise scorer in the final for, while he was the most experienced Athlone player, he only rarely figured on the scoresheet. Centre-forward James Sweeney was the Town's most prolific marksman at the time but, strangely, he didn't manage a Cup goal this season. Another player who caught the eye in this team was wing-half Tommy Muldoon, who was snapped up by Aston Villa shortly after. Not so fortunate was right-back Joe Monahan who, some years later, lost his Cup medal, which he had attached to his watch-chain, while gaffing a pike on Lough Rea. Despite the best efforts of divers from as far afield as Limerick, it was never recovered.

Fordsons were a works team, based in the Ford factory in Cork. They had the advantage, like Saint James's Gate, the Guinness brewery team in Dublin, of attracting good players who were anxious to secure employment. Two of their players, goalkeeper Billy O'Hagan and inside-left Harry Buckle, were Irish internationals and, with League status granted for the following season, more notable signings were planned. Success wouldn't be long denied the Cork club.

FIRST ROUND

January 5	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 Collins, Lyster		MIDLAND ATHLETIC 0	
	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Roberts		SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	
	BROOKLYN ..... 1 Houston		BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 2 O'Brien o.g., Carroll	
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 3 Duncan, Dowdall, Kelly		PIONEERS ..... 2 Murphy, Fisher	
February 3	CLIFTON ..... 0 (Cork)		SHELBOURNE UNITED ... 2 Keegan, Quigley	

BYES: FORDSONS, JACOBS, and SHELBOURNE.

SECOND ROUND

January 19	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Robinson		BRAY UNKNOWNS 0	
	SHELBOURNE 0		ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 Ghent, Collins	
January 27	JACOBS 0		FORDSONS ..... 2 D. Collins 2	

February 17	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 2 Kelly, Keogh	SHELBOURNE UNITED ... 1 Doyle

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 16	BOHEMIANS 0	ATHLONE TOWN 0

SEMI-FINAL: THE MARDYKE

March 2	FORDSONS ..... 4 D. Collins 3, Pinkney	ST. JAMES'S GATE 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: SHELBOURNE PARK

March 1	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 Ghent, Lyster	BOHEMIANS 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Hannon	FORDSONS 0

Athlone Town: Paddy O'Reilly, Joe Monahan, Jimmy Hope, Terry Judge, John Joe Dykes, Tommy Muldoon, Norman Lyster, Dinny Hannon, James Sweeney, Eddie Collins, Frank Ghent.

Fordsons: Bill O'Hagan, –. O'Mahony, –. Millar, –. Maher, Jack O'Sullivan, Paddy Barry, –. Hunter, Laurence Pinkney, Jock Malpas, Harry Buckle, Dinny Collins.

Attendance: 18,000 **Receipts:** £1,074.

CHAPTER 4

1925: The Four Fs

SHAMROCK ROVERS, who had burst on the scene in 1922 by reaching the Cup final as a non-League side and then ran away with the League in their first season in 1922–23, lost their way somewhat when forwards Bob Fullam and John Joe Flood departed for Leeds United. However, their return for the 1924–25 season launched Rovers into one of the most glorious chapters in the club's illustrious history.

Rovers completed the grand slam of League, Shield and FAI Cup and they did it without losing a match. In twenty-seven League and Shield games, they won twenty and drew seven, with a goal difference of ninety-four for and twenty against. A lot of their success was due to their famous Four Fs – Fullam, Flood, Billy 'Juicy' Farrell and John 'Kruger' Fagan – whose understanding up front yielded a sack-full of goals.

Fullam was also an outstanding captain – because he hated losing and because he was the original players' player, always pleading their cause for an extra bonus or, where necessary, a better basic. His fellow-players respected him and accepted his bluntly-spoken diatribes if their performance wasn't up to scratch. Many a game was won by Fullam's earthy half-time summary of his team mates' shortcomings.

The slogan 'Give it to Bob' was a popular one and referred to Fullam's lethal left foot, which was regarded as virtually unstoppable. Apart from shooting talent, Fullam was also an able midfield general and was credited with bringing the best out of his wing partner Fagan.

Shamrock Rovers, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1924-25. From left, front row: T. Geoghegan, J. J. Healy, J. Moloney, E. Byrne, J. Cunningham (President), R. Fullam, P. Fagan, D. Dunne, A. Murphy. Second row: A.Byrne, D. Doyle, W. Gregg, A. Kirkland, M. Maguire, P. O'Reilly, J. Malone, J. J. Flood, C. Jordan, P. O'Brien, J. Fagan, W. Glen, J. Dundon (trainer). Third row: A. Barr, W. Hawthorn, W. Farrell, M. Nevin, J. Moran, F. Murphy, J. Dunne, J. Robinson, W. Maguire, D. Gough, P. Lawless. Fourth row: M. Dunne, J. Fullam, J. Clarke, J. Sheridan, W. Saunders, J. Byrne, W. Maguire, T. Murphy, W. Gregg. Missing: E. Marlowe.

Flood, who later had a spell with Crystal Palace, operated at inside-right but could also perform on the right wing, while centre-forward Farrell was a former Bray Unknowns' player who was noted for his pace, his dribbling skills and his opportunism. 'Sacky' Glen said of Farrell: "He had more ways of scoring than any player I have ever seen."

Farrell, who had joined the Milltown club the previous season, really blossomed with the return of Fullam and Flood, and was the club's top scorer in a record-breaking year. So good was he, in fact, that Jimmy Dunne, later to become one of the English League's most prolific scorers, was forced to accept reserve team football at Rovers and was eventually transferred to New Brighton. Sadly, Farrell's great career was brought to a tragic halt when he was badly injured in a motorbike accident on his way home from training in 1926. Although he made a courageous attempt at a comeback it was not a success.

Fullam and right-full Alec Kirkland had won IFA Cup medals with Shelbourne in 1920, while goalkeeper Paddy O'Reilly was winning his second Free State Cup medal in sucessive seasons, having been successful with Athlone in 1924.

The final was a Ringsend 'derby', with Shelbourne providing the opposition, and Dalymount Park was packed to capacity with a record crowd of 23,000 watching the proceedings. The gates had to be closed fifteen minutes before the kick-off. For the first time an English referee was in charge of the final and the honour fell to Mr. J. T. Howcroft (Bolton), who had refereed the 1920 English FA Cup final.

Later in the season, Rovers travelled to Belfast to take on Irish League champions, Glentoran, and they gave the game in the South a most welcome boost when they scored a memorable 2–0 win in what was billed as an All-Ireland Championship decider.

FIRST ROUND

January 3	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Farrell 2
	BROOKLYN ..... 6 M. McCabe 5, Hinch	**JACOBS** ..... 2 Hickey 2
	SHELBOURNE ..... 3 Lea, Doran 2	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 Hannon 2, Kelly
January 10	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 5 John Sweeney, James Sweeney 3, Ghent	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 O'Driscoll, O'Leary 2

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

January 11	FORDSONS 0	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Cowzer	

BYES, PIONEERS, DRUMCONDRA, BRAY UNKNOWNS, SAINT JAMES'S GATE.

SECOND ROUND

January 17	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 4 Byrne 2, McLean, Cunningham pen.	PIONEERS 0
	BROOKLYN 0	SHELBOURNE ..... 4 Doran 3 (1 pen.), Cowzer
	DRUMCONDRA 0	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 James Sweeney 2
	ST. JAMES'S GATE 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Jordan

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 14	SHELBOURNE ..... 4 Doran 2, Maguire, Cowzer	ATHLONE TOWN 0

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 28	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Flood, Kirkland	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 Newman pen.

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Fullam, Flood	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Glen o.g.

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy O'Reilly, Alec Kirkland, John 'Doc' Malone, William 'Sacky' Glen, Dinny 'Nettler' Doyle, Ned Marlowe, Charlie 'Spid' Jordan, Bob Fullam, Billy 'Juicy' Farrell, John Joe Flood, John 'Kruger' Fagan.

Shelbourne: Paddy Walsh, Frank Daly, Paddy 'Yoddy' Kavanagh, – Kelly, Val Harris, Mick 'Boxer' Foley, –. Laxton, Bob Cowzer, John Doran, Terry Mulvanny, Sammy Wilson.

Attendance: 23,000

Receipts: £1,235.

CHAPTER 5

1926: O'Hagan Thwarts Fullam

THE turning-point in the 1926 final occurred when Fordsons' goalkeeper, Billy O'Hagan, saved a penalty struck by Shamrock Rovers' captain, Bob Fullam, with the scores level at 2–2. It was rare for Fullam to miss from the spot but the sequel to his miss on this occasion gave him a lot of satisfaction in years to come.

When the ball broke loose, after O'Hagan's initial save, it was fifty/fifty between the goalkeeper and the penalty-taker, but Fullam decided not to contest the issue. "That decision was the best of my life," he told his brother Monsignor Thomas Fullam. "When the ball came out, I could have hit it but I would have killed O'Hagan so I held back."

O'Hagan's bravery inspired his teammates, who notched the vital third goal to win before yet another record crowd (25,000). In fact, O'Hagan proved an inspiration right through the Cup campaign as he saved a penalty in the first round tie against Shelbourne and then twice saved a penalty in the last fifteen minutes of the second-round tie in Athlone.

O'Hagan was from the North, as were five other members of the Fordsons team – Jimmy Carabine, Barney Collins, Malachy McKinney, Paddy Kelly and Harry Buckle – and, if Buckle's case is anything to go by, Orange bigotry probably did the Cork club a few unwitting favours!

Buckle was an Irish international who played with Sunderland, Bristol Rovers and Coventry before returning to his native Belfast to work at the ship-building with Harland & Wolff and continue his football career on a part-time basis with Belfast Celtic.

Discrimination was rife in the shipyards and Catholics were very much in the minority. It was probably through his football connections that Buckle managed to find work there at all. Even that didn't save him, however, when the troubles started and the Orangemen came searching for scapegoats on which to vent their anger. Along with seventeen or so Catholics, Buckle was thrown into Belfast Lough – and the message was clear.

A foreman, who was friendly with him because of his football prowess, took him aside and advised him to get out while the going was good. Buckle took the hint and moved to Wales before getting into his ship-building trade again in Cork. From there he was snapped up by Fords and became a key member of the Fordsons team.

Buckle, who must have been one of the oldest players ever to win a FAI Cup medal – if not the oldest – was renowned for the fact that he never headed the ball. He always took the ball down to his feet and made full use of his arms and elbows to keep would-be tacklers at bay. In the final he made one magical run from practically the halfway line, beating the entire Rovers defence only to slip the ball wide. A veteran he may have been, but the skill was still there.

Fordsons right-full Jack Baylor achieved another distinction in 1937 when he became the first Cup medal winner to referee a Cup final. English referees were the custom in the early days of the Cup and, on 9 January 1926, a Mr. Baker and his son made history when they refereed Cup ties in Dublin. Baker Snr. was in charge of Bohemians v. Shamrock Rovers, while Baker Jnr. deputised for a Mr. Winnell and took charge of Shelbourne v. Fordsons.

FIRST ROUND

January 9	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 4 Brooks, Ghent, James Sweeney, Henry pen.	**BRIDEVILLE** 0
	BOHEMIANS 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0
	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 5 Byrne 2, McFarlane, Carroll, T. Cunningham	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 2 Donnelly, Dowdall
	FORDSONS ..... 2 Roberts, D. Collins	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Watters, Simpson
	LINDON ..... 4 Hoey 3, Flanagan	**PIONEERS** ..... 2 Chervi, M. Murphy
January 10	**JACOBS** ..... 5 Smith 4, Byrne	**BARRACKTON UTD.** ..... 1 McVeigh pen.

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 16	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Fagan, Farrell	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Stynes 2
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Robinson	**FORDSONS** ..... 2 Kelly, Roberts

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 20	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Farrell pen., Marlowe	**BOHEMIANS** 0

SECOND ROUND

January 23	**LINDON** ..... 1 Carey	**JACOBS** ..... 1 Moore
January 24	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 2 James Sweeney 2 (1 pen.)	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 Hannon, Roberts, Barry

BYES: BRAY UNKNOWNS and SHAMROCK ROVERS.

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 31	**JACOBS** ..... 4 Smith 2, Moore 2	**LINDON** ..... 2 Hoey pen., Flanagan

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 6	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0	**JACOBS** 0

SEMI-FINAL: VICTORIA CROSS, CORK

February 21	**FORDSONS** ..... 4 Buckle, Kelly, Sullivan 2	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 McFarlane

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 20	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Jordan, Fullam, Flood	**JACOBS** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 Barry 2, Roberts	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Farrell, Fagan

Fordsons: Bill O'Hagan, Jack Baylor, Jimmy Carabine, James 'Sally' Connolly, Jack O'Sullivan, Barney Collins, Malachy McKinney, Paddy Kelly, Dave Roberts, Harry Buckle, Paddy Barry.

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy O'Reilly, John 'Doc' Malone, Alec Kirkland, William 'Sacky' Glen, Dinny 'Nettler' Doyle, Ned Marlowe, Charlie 'Spid' Jordan, John Joe Flood, Billy 'Juicy' Farrell, Bob Fullam, John 'Kruger' Fagan.

Attendance: 25,000 **Receipts: £1,528.**

CHAPTER 6

1927: Non-League Surprise

DOWN the years there have been many good performances in the FAI Cup by the winners of the Intermediate Cup but, strange to relate, none have managed to repeat the performance of the first winners, Drumcondra, who went all the way in 1927 to complete a unique double.

In its first year the Intermediate Cup was known as the Qualifying Cup and Drumcondra had to travel to Cobh to beat the local Ramblers in the final. Both teams qualified for the FAI Cup but, whereas Cobh lost to Brideville in the first round, Drumcondra beat Jacobs and Bohemians on their way to a final meeting with Brideville, whom they beat 1–0 after a replay.

Drumcondra were then a Leinster Senior League team aspiring to League of Ireland status, but their Cup success didn't earn them that distinction as there were no vacancies and League officials obviously felt the time was not right to extend the League. However, Drumcondra proved their form was no flash in the pan by reaching the Cup final again in 1928 and, although they were beaten 2–1 by Bohemians, they secured the sought-after place in the League for 1928–29 when Athlone Town resigned.

Tom Moore, left-back on that Drumcondra team, recalled that it was their great team spirit which carried them through so many tough Cup ties. "The players played whether they were injured or not," he remarked.

Captain of Drumcondra was centre-half Joe Grace, who had played for Belfast Celtic in a distinguished career and was a father-figure to the Drums team. In 1926 he earned the distinction of being

capped for Ireland against Italy while playing in the Leinster Senior League, a feat that has never been repeated.

Drumcondra figured in another piece of history in their 1928 Cup run when their 3–0 semi-final win over Fordsons in Cork was the first soccer match to be broadcast on Irish radio. The commentary was by John Murphy (Pioneers) and Jim Brennan, who was Chairman of the Free State League.

Shelbourne Park was used as a venue for a Cup final for the first time in 1927 when the replay was held there and, as the score was 0–0 after ninety minutes, extra time was used for the first time to decide the issue.

Brideville, Drumcondra's victims in the final, were a team based in Dublin's Liberties and were only in their second season of League football. They won the FAI Junior Cup in 1924 and the Leinster Senior Cup the following year, but the FAI Cup always eluded them. Had they been successful against Drumcondra, theirs would have been a unique feat also for they finished bottom of the League that season.

FIRST ROUND

January 8	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 1 James Sweeney	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 4 McMillan, Meek 2, Robinson
	BOHEMIANS ..... 6 Matthews 2, O'Flaherty, Dennis, Bermingham, Bowden o.g.	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Bushe
	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 3 Rogers 2, Byrne	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 0 (At Shelbourne Park)
January 9	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Maguire, Killeen	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 1 Kelleher
	JACOBS 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 McCarney 2, Murray
	FORDSONS ..... 2 Heaney o.g., Fleming	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Booth

SECOND ROUND

January 22	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Doran 3, McMillan 2	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Rogers
January 23	**FORDSONS** ..... 2 Keenan 2	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 White 2, Matthews

BYES: BRIDEVILLE and DRUMCONDRA.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 5	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Murtagh 2	**SHELBOURNE** 0	

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 19	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 Swan, Coyle, Murray	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Matthews	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 McCarney	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 McCarthy	

Drumcondra: Jim Cleary, John 'Myler' Keogh, Tom Moore, Con Coyle, Joe Grace, Willie Maxwell, Donie Fleming, George Swan, Owen McCarney, Eddie Cullen, Johnny Murray.

Brideville: Syl Gamblin, George Lennox, John Siney, Gerry Donovan, Harry Armstrong, Johnny Fox, Phil Murtagh, Mick Maguire, Fran Watters, Paul O'Brien, Percy McCarthy.

Attendance: 25,000 **Receipts: £1,442.**

FINAL REPLAY: SHELBOURNE PARK

April 9	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Murray	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 0 **(After extra time)**	

Both teams unchanged.

Attendance: 10,000 **Receipts: £500.**

CHAPTER 7

1928: Bohemians' Grand Slam

THE BOHEMIANS team that won the Free State Cup in 1928 is reckoned to have been the best that ever represented the famous Dublin club. In addition to the Cup, they also won the League, the Shield, and the Leinster Cup – the latter a trophy which had eluded the great Shamrock Rovers team of 1924–25.

There wasn't a weak link in the team – and the mentors knew it. And rather than weaken the team they went to great lengths to keep it together, as the story of Joe 'Sam' Robinson, the right-back, indicates.

As a result of some horseplay in the dressingroom after training one night at Dalymount, a bucket of hot water was accidentally tipped over Robinson's leg, causing the skin to peel away and leaving the scalded leg in an exceedingly raw and tender state. It seemed a foregone conclusion that he would miss Bohemians' forthcoming game, but Bohemians' doctor and mentor, Dr. Hooper, had other ideas. "He bandaged me up like a turkey cock and I played," was how Robinson described it. "They didn't want to disturb the team," he added. "With that team it wasn't a case of were we going to win, it was how much we were going to win by."

A vital cog in the team was inside-right Billy Dennis, who scored the winning goal in the final against Drumcondra. An Englishman, he wouldn't have joined the Bohemians ranks but for the course of true love.

Originally a miner, he joined the British Army, North Staffordshire Regiment, in 1918, and was stationed on the Curragh in 1919. He became friendly with an Irish girl, Mary O'Leary, and after

a tour of duty in India, he asked her to marry him. She agreed – on condition that she didn't have to leave Dublin. So Billy returned to Dublin to get married and later joined Bohemians. He had played a couple of games for Port Vale as an amateur before he left England.

Another 'outsider', who had a big influence on that Bohemians team, was the club's first full-time coach, Bobby Parker, a former Hearts player. Although a man of few words, he had the respect of all the players.

He was also instrumental in spotting the potential of left-winger Peter Kavanagh, who turned up to watch a game and was drafted in when one of the selected eleven failed to arrive. Parked pestered Kavanagh to sign after that and finally succeeded. At eighteen, Kavanagh was the youngest member of the grand slam team and was naturally a target for the cross-Channel scouts, with Glasgow Celtic eventually winning the race. Sadly, a knee injury finished his career while he was still in his early twenties.

Another key man was centre-half Johnny McMahon, who came from Derry. A member of the Gárda Band, he had a fearsome shot which earned him many goals and, apart from amateur internationals, he was also honoured at full international level by the IFA. He is the only League of Ireland player to be accorded that honour.

Bohemians' win meant that four of the first seven winners of the Cup – St. James's Gate, Alton United, Drumcondra and Bohemians – were amateurs but this trend was not maintained in the succeeding years, with only Bohemians (1935) and Home Farm (1975) breaking the professional clubs' stranglehold on the Cup.

FIRST ROUND

January 7	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 3 Henry 2, James Sweeney	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 9 McCarney 4, Swan 3, Keogh, Doyle
	BOHEMIANS ..... 7 White 3, Dennis 2, Thomas, Robinson	**COBH RAMBLERS** 0
	JACOBS ..... 2 Herron, Boyne	**STRANDVILLE** ..... 1 McGrane
	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 McCleery, Robinson	**BRIDEVILLE** 0
January 8	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 6 Sloan 4, Rogers 2	**BENDIGO** ..... 1 Cummins
	CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Noonan, Buckley	**FORDSONS** ..... 4 Heinemann, Dowdall, O'Sullivan, Hannon

	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 4 Farrell 2, Ennis, Booth	**CORK CITY** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Campbell, Luke, Fagan	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Kane, Barrett 2

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

January 12	**DUNDALK** ..... 4 Withers, Carroll 2, Mathieson	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 O'Brien

SECOND ROUND

January 21	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 5 McMahon 2 (1 pen.), White 2, Bermingham	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 0
	SHELBOURNE ..... 3 McIlvenny, MacMillan, McCleery	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Barrett
January 22	**FORDSONS** ..... 4 Connolly 2, Heinemann 2	**JACOBS** 0
January 25	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Carroll 2	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Murray 2

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 29	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 4 McCarney 3, Doyle	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Newman

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 4	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 McMahon pen.	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 McCarthy o.g.

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 19	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**SHELBOURNE** 0

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 22	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 Dennis, Daly o.g., White, C. Robinson	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Kinsella

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE, CORK

February 19	**FORDSONS** 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 McCarney, Doyle 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 White, Dennis	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Keogh	

Bohemians: Harry Cannon, Joe 'Sam' Robinson, Jack McCarthy, Johnny McIlroy, Johnny McMahon, Bob Thomas, Jimmy Bermingham, Billy Dennis, Jimmy White, Christy 'Boy' Robinson, Peter Kavanagh.

Drumcondra: Charlie O'Callaghan, –. Kelly, Tom Moore, Con Coyle, Joe Grace, Willie Maxwell, Stephen Doyle, George Swan, Owen McCarney, John 'Myler' Keogh, Johnny Murray.

Attendance: 25,000 **Receipts:** £1,800.

Bohemians, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1927-28. From left, in front: J. White, J. McCarthy. Front row: R. Beckett, P. Whelan, R. Thomas, W. Dennis, C. Robinson, J. Bermingham, Capt. H. Cannon, J. Robinson, J. McElroy, P. Kavanagh, J.McMahon, J. Wickham. Back row: T. Rochford, J. Murray, R. Parker (coach), C. Harris (trainer), T. Green, M. Kenny, Dr. Hooper, H. Kerr, P. Sheridan, C. Heron, J. Doyle.

CHAPTER 8

1929: Start of an Affair

SHAMROCK ROVERS' great love-affair with the FAI Cup started in earnest on 5 January 1929, with a first-round defeat of great rivals Shelbourne. That marked the start of an unbeaten five-year Cup run which didn't end until 24 January 1934, when Rovers were surprisingly beaten at home in a first-round replay by Saint James's Gate.

Three players – John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, and John Joe Flood – shared in each of that five-in-a-row, establishing a record of consecutive Cup medals which wasn't broken until 1969, when Pat Courtney, also of Shamrock Rovers, won his sixth successive medal. While Glen and Flood were from Ringsend, Rovers' traditional home, Burke was from Cahir, County Tipperary, and had been spotted playing for junior club, Cahir Park. He scored on his debut as an inside-forward in the 1927–28 season but coach Johnny Dundon solved one of Rovers' problems when he switched Burke to left-back, a position in which he won international honours.

Burke was a much-travelled footballer, having played while serving with the British Army in England, France, Germany, and India. He fought in both World Wars and was among those evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940.

The Tipperary man married into the same family as Rovers' boss, Joe Cunningham, and his son, Mickey, followed in his footsteps, winning two Cup medals in 1955 and 1956 with Rovers, from the right-back position. Although he never emulated his father at international level, Mickey was honoured on many occasions at inter-

League level. Family rivalry was keen in the 1950s when John was trainer-coach to Sligo Rovers' Dublin players for a spell.

Another member of Rovers' 1929 team has links with later Cup glory for the Milltown men. Centre-half Tom Caulfield's grandson, Liam O'Brien, was a member of the Rovers' team which won the Cup in 1985.

Rovers' victory over Bohemians in a replay also saw the start of a tradition which lasted until 1984 when it was ended by UCD. In the intervening years, Rovers built up a seeming invincibility in Cup final replays. Rovers' 1929 victory also marked the first occasion any club had won the Cup twice.

When the Harcourt Street railway line was in operation it passed through Milltown on its way to Bray and, as a result, Rovers picked up some useful talent from the seaside town. Billy 'Juicy' Farrell, centre-forward on the great 1924–25 team, was probably the best known, but by 1929 his place had been taken by another Bray man, Jack Sloan.

FIRST ROUND

January 5	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 McMahon, Bermingham	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 0
	RICHMOND ROVERS 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Stewart, Fitzhenry o.g.
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Sloan 2, Flood	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Maguire, R. Thomas
January 6	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Rogers 2	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 S. Robinson
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Watters, McCarney, McDonald	**FORDSONS** ..... 1 Heinemann
	FERMOY 0	**RICHMOND UNITED** ..... 1 Fagan
	JACOBS ..... 1 Carlisle	**DOLPHIN** ..... 1 Kenny
	WATERFORD CELTIC ..... 1 Haygood	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Lynch pen.

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 9	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 Buckley, O'Sullivan 2, Geaney	**WATERFORD CELTIC** ..... 1 Arrigan
	DOLPHIN ..... 2 Burch, Hand pen.	**JACOBS** ..... 3 Owens, Carlisle, Ronan

SECOND ROUND

January 19	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 O'Kane, Deegan o.g.	**JACOBS** ..... 2 Carlisle, Hickey
	DUNDALK ..... 6 Carroll 4, Mathieson, Egan	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Payne, Rogers
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Golding, Sherwin 2, Flood	**RICHMOND UNITED** 0
January 20	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 McCarney 2, McDonald	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Kane

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 23	**JACOBS** ..... 2 Kelly pen., Carlisle	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 Horlacher, Bermingham, McMahon pen., White

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

February 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Sloan 3	**DUNDALK** 0

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 16	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 McMahon pen., Andrews	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 18	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0	**BOHEMIANS** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy O'Reilly, Jim Maguire, John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, Tom Caulfield, Ned Marlowe, John 'Lye' Golding, John Joe Flood, Jack Sloan, Bob Fullam, –. Sherwin.

Bohemians: Harry Cannon, Mick O'Kane, Jack McCarthy, Paddy O'Kane, Johnny McMahon, Alec Morton, Jimmy Bermingham, Billy Dennis, Jimmy White, Fred Horlacher, Peter Kavanagh.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts:** £1,500.

FINAL REPLAY: SHELBOURNE PARK

April 6	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Flood 2, Fullam	**BOHEMIANS** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Charlie Campbell for Sherwin. **Bohemians:** Unchanged.

Attendance: 15,000 (approx.) **Receipts:** £713.

CHAPTER 9

David 'Babby' Byrne

1930: 'Babby' Denies Brideville

A NUMBER of Cup finals have been decided by 'handball' goals which went undetected, but the first such verifiable goal occurred in the 1930 final, when Shamrock Rovers recorded a second successive win, beating Brideville 1–0.

David Byrne, who was known as 'Babby', because he was the youngest of a Ringsend family of eleven, admitted that the winning goal, which was credited to him, in the last minute of the game, was illegal. He remembered the circumstances well: "A very high ball was floated across and I got in between Charlie Reid, who had dropped back to defend, and the goalie Charlie O'Callaghan. I jumped up, my hand hit the ball first and it went in. I got into more trouble over scoring that goal because a draw seemed on the cards and that would have meant more money."

Byrne also recalled a curious incident from the semi-final against Fordsons, which was played in The Mardyke in Cork. "I scored with two minutes to go but the referee, who was from Sheffield, disallowed it. Coming off the pitch I said to him: 'You made a mistake there, ref', and he replied, 'Well, you won't lose anything by it'." How right he was, with Rovers romping to a 3–0 replay win in the Iveagh Grounds in Dublin.

Although he stood barely 5–5, centre-forward Byrne was known as the 'scourge of goalkeepers' for he never let them alone, snapping terrier-like at them to force them into errors, which was permissible under the rules then. Very fast off the mark, many a goalkeeper discovered he had hopped the ball once too often in his area and 'Babby' had pounced to dispatch it to the net.

Byrne won a League medal with Rovers in 1926–27 and then transferred to Bradford City, where he played a handful of games and did reasonably well before returning to Shelbourne, with whom he won a second League medal in 1928–29. It was back to Rovers then and four successive Cup medals in the famous five-in-a-row team. 'Babby' weighed in with goals in the 1930 and 1933 finals.

Following the latter final, he was transferred to Manchester United but got little chance to prove his worth there, despite scoring three goals in four appearances, and moved on to Coleraine. From there he went to Larne and it was his goals which earned the County Antrim club a place in the 1935 IFA Cup final, which they lost 1–0 to Glentoran after two 0–0 draws.

His Cup luck was out again when he returned to the Free State League, as he missed out on the 1936 final while with Shamrock Rovers and the 1939 final while with Shelbourne. Capped three times – he scored on his debut against Belgium in 1929 – 'Babby' Byrne was one of the early characters of Free State football and was the first player to register one hundred goals in the League of Ireland.

While Byrne scored the goal that mattered in the Cup in 1930, Bohemians' centre-forward Bill Cleary also wrote his name into the record books with a six-goal haul in a first-round re-fixture away to Bray Unknowns, which Bohs won 7–3. Cleary's feat has never been equalled.

FIRST ROUND

January 4	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 0 **(Abandoned: bad weather)**	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Daly o.g.
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Golding	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Davis
January 5	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Blair	**WATERFORD CELTIC** 0
	CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Delea	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Aitken 2
	DOLPHIN ..... 5 Hand 2 (1 pen.), Swan 3	**MULLINGAR CELTIC** ..... 1 Henry
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Murray, Rowles o.g., Fleming	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 Blair, Lindsay 2
	GLASNEVIN ..... 2 Drumgoole 2	**CAHIR PARK** ..... 1 Ryan
	JACOBS ..... 3 Corcoran 2, Temple	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 4 Westby 4 (one pen.)

FIRST ROUND RE-FIXTURE

January 8	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 3 Gorman, Hogan 2	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 7 Cleary 6, McMahon

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 8	**FORDSONS** ..... 3 Lindsay, T. Dickson, Owens	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Murray
	SHELBOURNE 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

FIRST-ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 15	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 'Babby' Byrne 2, Flood	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Luke

SECOND ROUND

January 18	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 4 Golding, Byrne 2, Flood	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 2 Westby, Wilson
January 19	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Bermingham pen.	**DOLPHIN** ..... 1 Hand
	DUNDALK ..... 5 Aitken, Patton 2, Beadles, Kelly o.g.	**GLASNEVIN** 0
	FORDSONS ..... 1 T. Dickson	**BOHEMIANS** 0

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 22	**DOLPHIN** ..... 2 Hand 2	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 C. Reid, Charles

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 29	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 5 Gaskins 2, Blair, Reid, O'Brien	**DOLPHIN** ..... 1 Swan

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 1	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Gaskins, Patton o.g.	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Patton

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE, CORK

February 16	**FORDSONS** ..... 2 T. Dickson 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Byrne, Fullam

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: IVEAGH GROUNDS, CRUMLIN

March 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Flood, Golding, Sloan	**FORDSONS** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17 **SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... **1** **BRIDEVILLE** **0**
Byrne (90m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy O'Reilly, Francies 'Pudge' Cervi, John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, Tom Caulfield, Ned Marlowe, John Joe Flood, Jack Sloan, David 'Babby' Byrne, John 'Lye' Golding, Bob Fullam.

Brideville: Charlie O'Callaghan, Paddy Kenny, Paddy Bermingham, Joe O'Reilly, Bill Charles, Johnny Fox, Jack Smith, Peadar Gaskins, Davy Blair, Charlie Reid, Paul O'Brien.

Attendance: 17,000 **Receipts: £1,160.**

It's a Record

- Cork Hibernians' Miah Dennehy is the only player to score a hat-trick in a Cup final (1972 v. Waterford).
- William 'Sacky' Glen and Johnny Fullam won eight Cup medals: Glen with Shamrock Rovers and Shelbourne; Fullam with Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians.

CHAPTER 10

1931: Heartbreak for Dundalk

FROM THE very start of their League career, Dundalk made great efforts to win the Cup, starting with a sensational first-round replay victory over Shamrock Rovers in their first campaign in 1928. In each of the following seasons, they advanced to the semi-final, but lost to Rovers and Brideville respectively.

The advent of Joey Donnelly and Gerry McCourt in 1931 heralded the next stage of the club's development, with wins over Jacobs, Cork Bohemians and Dolphin securing a place in the final against Shamrock Rovers. The goals of Donnelly and McCourt, who were to remain loyal servants of the club for many years, were largely responsible for the achievement of this milestone in the club's history.

When McCourt scored again in the first half of the final, it looked as though history was to be made, for Rovers were playing well below form in the controversial absence of captain Bob Fullam. However, a change of policy on Dundalk's part in the second half, when they opted to hold on to what they had rather than increase their lead, handed the initiative to Rovers.

Time was running out – and the Dundalk colours were already attached to the Cup – when Rovers attacked and, in controversial circumstances, equalised. When the ball was played into the Dundalk goalmouth, 'Sacky' Glen, who was up helping his attack, handled the ball. The Dundalk defence hesitated, expecting the whistle but it never came, the ball was played through to Paddy Moore and he touched it into the net for a goal that still rankles with Dundalk fans. In fairness, it should be stated that reporters at the game felt the referee had consistently allowed play to go on when the ball was

unintentionally handled and Glen's offence probably came into that category.

Rovers duly won the replay – as they were to win every Cup final replay they contested until 1984 – when Moore scored the only goal of the game. Again it was controversial as Moore told Donnelly afterwards that he had punched the ball in! The return of Bob Fullam for the replay – he won his fourth and last Cup medal – was a crucial factor.

That Dundalk team was not only one of the unluckiest, but also one of the best, as they proved when they beat Scottish Cup winners, Glasgow Celtic, 2–1. It may have been an end of season friendly, but there was a free-for-all in the dressingroom afterwards. "They didn't like being beaten," recalled Joey Donnelly!

Apart from Dundalk, there was one other loser that year – Rovers' reserve goalkeeper, Billy Behan, later to win fame as a referee and as Manchester United's scout in Dublin. Behan had filled in for the injured Paddy O'Reilly in the Cup semi-final and final, but was replaced for the replay. Despite his contribution, he was overlooked when the medals were being distributed. However, after spells with Shelbourne and Manchester United, he returned to Rovers and captured that elusive medal in 1936.

FIRST ROUND

December 28	CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 3 Delea, Hayes 2		DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Feeney, Griffiths	
January 10	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Flood, Byrne		SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Connolly	
January 11	CORK 0		BOHEMIANS 0	
	DOLPHIN ..... 3 Somers 2, Lennox pen.		BRIDEVILLE ..... 2 Reid, Bermingham pen.	
	DUNDALK ..... 4 McCourt, Donnelly, Stewart, Firth		JACOBS ..... 2 Forrest Owens	
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 2 Gleeson, Swan		BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 2 McNally 2	
	ST. VINCENT'S ..... 1 (Cork) Herrick		EDENVILLE ..... 3 Bell 2, Lewis	
	WATERFORD ..... 5 Arrigan, Crawford, Mitchell, Graham 2		ROSSVILLE ..... 3 Byrne, W. McCormack 2	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 15	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Cleary	CORK 0
	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 4 McNally 3, Buchanan	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 3 Wilson 2, Swan

SECOND ROUND

February 7	BOHEMIANS ..... 5 Ellis, O'Sullivan, Cleary 3	EDENVILLE ..... 1 Bell
February 8	DUNDALK ..... 3 McCourt 2, Donnelly	CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Delea
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 5 Byrne, Flood 2, Golding 2	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 McNally
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Scurry, Common	DOLPHIN ..... 3 Patterson, Somers, Carroll

SEMI-FINAL: IVEAGH GROUNDS, CRUMLIN

March 8	DUNDALK ..... 1 Slowey pen.	DOLPHIN ..... 1 Carroll

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 11	DUNDALK ..... 3 Donnelly, McCourt, Hirst	DOLPHIN ..... 1 Somers

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

March 28	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Moore 3	BOHEMIANS 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 18	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Moore (84m.)	DUNDALK ..... 1 McCourt (30m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Billy Behan, Francis 'Pudge' Cervi, John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, Tom Caulfield, Owen Kinsella, –. 'Diller' Delaney, Paddy Moore, David 'Babby' Byrne, John Joe Flood, John 'Lye' Golding.

Dundalk: Sam McMullan, Tommy McKeon, Clancey McDiarmuid, Jack Slowey, Ted Reid, Dickey Johnstone, Gerry McCourt, Owen McCahill, Ledger Firth, Henry Hirst, Joey Donnelly.

Attendance: 20,000 **Receipts: £1,122.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

May 9	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Moore	DUNDALK 0

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy O'Reilly for Behan, Bob Fullam for Delaney. **Dundalk:** Unchanged.

Attendance: 10,000 **Receipts: £806.**

Shamrock Rovers, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1931-32. From left, front row: P. Moore, W. Glen, R. Fullam, F. Cervi, J. J. Flood. Back row: J. Dundon (trainer), D. Byrne, J. McMillan, J. Burke, M. McCarthy, J. Daly, O. Kinsella, J. Smith, J. Byrne (assistant trainer). Inset: V. Matthews (captain).

CHAPTER 11

1932: Moore Exits on a High Note

PADDY MOORE is reckoned by many to have been the best centre-forward ever produced by Ireland and his name is indelibly linked with the FAI Cup, having scored the winning goal in each of the three finals he contested with Shamrock Rovers in 1931, 1932, and 1936.

A native of Ballybough on Dublin's north side, he made his way to Rovers via Clonliffe Celtic, Bendigo and Richmond Rovers. As a schoolboy his skill became so widely admired that crowds flocked to watch him in action in the Phoenix Park. He made his FAI Cup debut with the Richmond Rovers team beaten 2–0 by Dundalk in the first round in 1929 and then moved to Rovers where he made a sensational start to his career with a steady stream of goals in the Shield campaign.

Moore spent the 1929–30 season with Cardiff City but only got one League game with them and returned to Rovers for the 1930–31 season, when his goals were the ones that mattered in the Cup semi-final – a hat-trick against Bohemians – and final.

A switch to centre-forward – he had been operating at inside-right – for the 1931–32 season started the goals flowing and he led Rovers to magnificent victories in the Cup, League and Shield. Only the Leinster Cup eluded them and it was significant that Moore was injured and missed the game in which Dolphin dismissed the men from Milltown.

Dolphin, formed by the Butchers' Social Union, were worthy opponents for Rovers in the latter's Cup final bid for the four-in-a-row. According to 'Sam' Robinson, who played on Bohemians' grand slam team of 1927–28 before joining Dolphin: "Dolphin were

the greatest football team ever in the Free State. You could play three matches for Dolphin and not be tired, whereas you could play one match for Bohs and you'd be tired out of your standing."

Unfortunately, like a lot of good footballing sides, Dolphin never really got the reward for their talents. In the short seven years of their existence as a League club, they won the League and Leinster Cup once, but failed to capture the Cup, twice losing to Shamrock Rovers in finals. In 1932, they established a Cup record for an away win when they beat Saint James's Gate 10–0. Included among the scorers was eighteen-year-old Alec Stevenson, later to win fame with Glasgow Rangers and Everton.

In the 1932 final, Dolphin were unlucky to come up against Paddy Moore at the height of his powers. His lone goal was sufficient to take the Cup to Milltown for the fifth time. The glamour pairing attracted a record crowd of over 32,000, with receipts of £1,700, almost three times as big as for the first final ten years previously. Without doubt, the FAI Cup had arrived.

Two of the Rovers' players, Moore and right-full Jimmy Daly, along with Brideville wing-half Joe O'Reilly, were transferred the following month to Aberdeen, where Moore proved a big hit until the effects of his latent alcoholism took over. Sadly, alcoholism wasn't recognised for what it was in those days and, with no treatment available, Moore's great career was cut tragically short, although there were many great moments still to come before he bowed out in 1938.

FIRST ROUND

December 27	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 Brown, Sherwin, Crofts	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Foley pen.
January 9	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 8 White 2, Dennis 2, Horlacher 4	**COBH RAMBLERS** 0
	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 Quinlan	**CORK** ..... 2 Cunningham, Ferguson
	EDENVILLE ..... 2 Mundow pen., D. Kane	**JACOBS** ..... 1 Ward
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 9 Moore 4, Smith, Fullam 2, Matthews 2	**ORMEAU** ..... 3 Morton, Snowe, Hughes
January 10	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Reid	**WATERFORD** ..... 4 Foster 4

	DUNDALK ..... 1 Kelly	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 T. Carroll, Walsh
	ST. JAMES'S GATE 0	**DOLPHIN** ..... 10 Shiels 5, McKay o.g., Patterson 2, Stevenson 2

SECOND ROUND

February 6	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Dennis, White	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Kinsella, Moore 2, Byrne	**EDENVILLE** ..... 2 Mundow pen., Kane
February 7	**DOLPHIN** ..... 3 Smith, Shiels 2	**CORK** ..... 2 Ferguson, Paton
	SHELBOURNE ..... 4 Walsh, Carroll 2, Jones	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 O'Brien, Sampy pen.

SEMI-FINAL: IVEAGH GROUNDS, CRUMLIN

March 5	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Moore 2, Smith	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Horlacher, Foy

SEMI-FINAL: MILLTOWN

March 27	**DOLPHIN** ..... 3 Somers, Smith, Paterson	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Jones

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 17	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Moore	**DOLPHIN** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Mick McCarthy, Jimmy Daly, John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, Vincent Matthews, Owen Kinsella, David 'Babby' Byrne, John Joe Flood, Paddy Moore, Jock McMillan, Jimmy Smith.

Dolphin: Jimmy Power, Bobby Nisbet, Larry Doyle, Joe 'Sam' Robinson, Gerry Kelly, Jimmy Watt, Jimmy Smith, Alec Stevenson, Jimmy Shields, Johnny Somers, Danny Paterson.

Attendance: 32,000 **Receipts:** £1,710.

CHAPTER 12

1933: 'Nettler' Gets the Sack

TOMMY 'NETTLER' DOYLE took over the centre-forward role for Shamrock Rovers when the great Paddy Moore was transferred to Aberdeen in 1932. He made a success of it, too, finishing in the League with seventeen goals and winning a Cup medal but, as he said himself: "I wouldn't even be fit to lace Paddy Moore's boots." However, Tommy, whose brother, Dinny, won a Cup medal with Rovers in 1925, got a shock when he was left out of the team to play Dolphin in the 1933 Cup final. He scored three goals in the four Cup games, so it was a bit of a bombshell but, as he recalled later: "I just took it – that's what you did at that time." No explanations were given, but Jimmy Daly, who had been transferred as a full-back with Moore to Aberdeen, was brought in at outside-right and David 'Babby' Byrne moved in from the wing to take Doyle's place.

The re-arranged team nearly came unstuck for Dolphin were 3–0 up at one stage before Rovers rallied to force a 3–3 draw with goals from Byrne, Jimmy Buchanan and Vincent Matthews. The latter two were part of the cross-Channel colony which had built up in Milltown in the early 1930s as the club gradually lost its Ringsend look. Matthews was a former England centre-half from Sheffield United, probably recommended by Jimmy Dunne, while Buchanan and outside-left Jimmy Smith were from Scotland.

While prepared to pay for cross-Channel talent, Rovers apparently didn't appreciate the local players and Doyle said: "I had a terrible job getting a few bob out of them, so the following season I signed for Southport and later went to Wigan Athletic." He later found his way back to League of Ireland football with Reds United.

The replay was in complete contrast to the first game. "I think I scored the quickest ever goal in a final," recalled 'Babby' Byrne. "It was the first kick of the ball I got. A throw-in came to John Joe Flood who passed to me and that was it. We were 2–0 up after twenty minutes and it was all over." Controversial choice Daly got the other two goals that gave Rovers a 3–0 win and the FAI Cup for the fifth successive season. Tommy Doyle had to be content with his medal as twelfth man.

The 1933 Cup campaign saw the final chapter in the playing career of Billy Lacey, probably the most versatile player ever produced by Ireland. Lacey, who started his senior career with Shelbourne, made his name in England with Everton and Liverpool, with whom he won League medals, before he returned to League of Ireland football with Shelbourne in 1926. He also had a spell with Linfield, winning an IFA Cup medal in 1919, and was a regular on the international team for many years. He was a member of the British Championship-winning team of 1914, when he scored two goals in a famous 3–0 victory over England in Middlesboro. Towards the end of his career, he was capped on three occasions by the FAI, each time in a different position – outside-right, inside-right and right-full! By 1933 he had retired but he answered a cry for help from Cork Bohemians and helped them win their first round tie against Bray Unknowns.

FIRST ROUND

December 26	**TRAMORE ROOKIES** 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 8 Murray 3, Merry 2, Baggot 2, Bracegirdle
December 31	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Griffiths, McConnell 2, McDaid, Diamond	**JACOBS** 0
January 1	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0	**CORK BOHEMIANS** 0
	CORK ..... 6 J. Rorrison 3, Kirkwood, Clarke, Cameron	**ROSSVILLE** ..... 1 Quirke
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Carroll	**DOLPHIN** ..... 1 Clarke o.g.
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Buchanan, Doyle, Flood	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Ebbs
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Westby, T. Callaghan, Fallon	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Thomas pen.
	WATERFORD 0	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 Dennis, Cleary 3

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 4	CORK BOHEMIANS 0		BRAY UNKNOWNS 0	
			(Abandoned after 38 mins.)	
	DOLPHIN 2		DUNDALK 1	
	McCarney 2		Carroll	

FIRST ROUND REPLAY RE-FIXTURE

January 11	CORK BOHEMIANS 2		BRAY UNKNOWNS 2	
	Doherty, Delea		Hannon, Hogan	
	(After extra time)			

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 18	BRAY UNKNOWNS 1		CORK BOHEMIANS 2	
	A. Rigby		Hayes, Crawford	

SECOND ROUND

January 21	BOHEMIANS 7		CORK BOHEMIANS 1	
	Ellis, McMahon, O'Dempsey 2, Cleary 2, Horlacher		Delea	
January 22	CORK 1		SHAMROCK ROVERS 1	
	O'Keeffe		Buchanan	
	DOLPHIN 2		DRUMCONDRA 1	
	Kendrick, Reid		Baggot	
	SHELBOURNE 5		SLIGO ROVERS 2	
	Diamond 4, Holmes pen.		P. Monaghan, Donnelly	

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

January 25	SHAMROCK ROVERS 3		CORK 0	
	Doyle 2, Flood			

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 11	SHAMROCK ROVERS 3		BOHEMIANS 1	
	Byrne, Buchanan, Smith		Ellis	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 26	DOLPHIN 1		SHELBOURNE 0	
	McCarney			

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	SHAMROCK ROVERS 3		DOLPHIN 3	
	Byrne, Buchanan, Matthews pen.		Lennox 2 pens., Fallon	

Shamrock Rovers: Mick McCarthy, Peadar Gaskins, John Burke, William 'Sacky' Glen, Vincent Matthews, Owen Kinsella, Jimmy Daly, John Joe Flood, David 'Babby' Byrne, Jimmy 'Scot' Buchanan, Jimmy Smith.

Dolphin: –. Slater, George Lennox, Larry Doyle, Jimmy Watt, Gerry Kelly, Joe Kendrick, Jimmy Bermingham, Jimmy Weldon, Owen McCarney, Johnny Somers, Willie Fallon.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: £1,522.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 26	SHAMROCK ROVERS 3		DOLPHIN 0	
	Daly 2, Byrne			

Dolphin: Charlie Reid for Bermingham. **Shamrock Rovers:** Unchanged.

Attendance: 18,000 **Receipts: £1,400.**

It's a Record

- Drumcondra and Alton United are the only non-League of Ireland teams to win the Cup. Alton (1923) played in the Falls League in Belfast, while Drumcondra were a Leinster League team when they won the Cup in 1927.
- Shamrock Rovers are the only club to win the Cup fives times and six times in succession. Apart from Rovers, Cork Hibernians are the only club to retain the Cup.

CHAPTER 13

1934: Buckle Emulates his Father

HISTORY was made in the 1934 final when Cork's outside-right, Bobby Buckle, emulated his father Harry's achievement of 1926 by winning a Cup medal. A versatile player, Buckle junior played full-back usually but was played on the wing in the final to add some more aggression to the attack.

In fact, it was their versatility which won Cork the Cup as the winning goal in the final against Saint James's Gate was scored by John Kelso, who had been moved from defence to centre-forward and responded with vital goals in the two semi-final games as well as in the final. After an earlier spell in the attack had been ended by an ankle injury, he recovered just in time for the semi-final tie with Dundalk.

Cork almost completed the double, being denied the League title by a point and claiming, with some justification, that a goal scored by Buckle in a crucial game should not have been ruled out for offside. However, they had their own share of luck, too, as a Hugh Connolly handball in the semi-final replay went unpunished when it looked a definite penalty.

The 1934 team has never been rated among the great Cork teams, but it had the necessary balance, as Buckle recalled: "We had a star goalie in Jimmy 'Fox' Foley; Harry Chatton had command as a centre-half; Johnny Paton was the general, controlling matters – he might only do four things in a match but something would come out of those four – and he got everybody working, and Timothy Jim O'Keeffe was the finisher."

Foley was in great form during that Cup run, as Eddie Bellew of

Bray Unknowns recalled: "We were losing 1–0 in the Mardyke when Paddy Jordan floated the ball across and, as I couldn't get to it, I put my hand up and tapped it in. Foley went mad when the referee allowed the goal but he had his revenge when we played them in Bray. No matter what we did he saved – he was tremendous – and Cork got through 2–0." Foley, who was capped seven times, was snapped up by Glasgow Celtic after the Cup final and later played for Plymouth Argyle before returning to finish out his career with the great Cork United team of the 1940s.

Chatton, a former Shelbourne and Dumbarton player, was an Irish international, while Paton had made his name with Glasgow Celtic and had won a French Cup medal the previous season. However, O'Keeffe was the real star of the team, a winger with an eye for goal whose tally of three caps was poor reward for his talent. He won a second Cup medal with Waterford in 1937 and was transferred afterwards to Hibernian for a record League of Ireland fee of £400.

Beaten finalists, St. James's Gate, also had a talented left-winger in Mattie Geoghegan, who was transferred to Belfast Celtic but returned to win a Cup medal with the Gate in 1938. Player-coach Charlie Dowdall, back after a number of years in Cork, was the sole link with the Gate team which won the Cup in 1922.

FIRST ROUND

January 13	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Hunt	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Leonard
	JACOBS 0	**DOLPHIN** ..... 5 O'Donnell 2, Tucker, Kendrick, Bermingham
January 14	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 9 Rogers 5, Dennis, Ellis, O'Dempsey, Jordan	**TRAMORE ROOKIES** 0
	CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Hogg o.g.	**CORK** ..... 1 O'Keeffe
	DUNDALK ..... 4 Burke 2, Delea, G. Godwin	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 Geoghegan	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Daly
	WATERFORD 0	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 3 Jordan 2, Hunt
January 21	**QUEEN'S PARK** ..... 2 Walsh, F. Bermingham	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Quinlan, Cooke o.g.

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 17	CORK	3	CORK BOHEMIANS	1
	O'Keeffe 2 (1 pen.), Paton		Doherty	
	SHELBOURNE	2	DRUMCONDRA	5
	Brady 2		Meehan 2, McCosh 2, Merry	
January 24	BRIDEVILLE	0	QUEEN'S PARK	2
			MacDonnell, E. Bermingham	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS	1	ST. JAMES'S GATE	2
	Smith		Dowdall, Rigby	

SECOND ROUND

January 27	DUNDALK	1	BOHEMIANS	0
	G. Godwin			
	QUEEN'S PARK	1	DOLPHIN	1
	MacDonnell		Fallon	
January 28	CORK	1	BRAY UNKNOWNS	1
	Haddow		Jordan	
	DRUMCONDRA	0	ST. JAMES'S GATE	2
			Kennedy, Geoghegan	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

January 31	BRAY UNKNOWNS	0	CORK	2
			Haddow, O'Keeffe	
	DOLPHIN	1	QUEEN'S PARK	0
	Dalton o.g.			

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

February 10	ST. JAMES'S GATE	1	DOLPHIN	0
	Kennedy			

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

February 11	CORK	2	DUNDALK	2
	Haddow, O'Keeffe		Atkins, Delea	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 4	CORK	1	DUNDALK	1
	Kelso		McCourt	

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: MILLTOWN

March 7	CORK	2	DUNDALK	1
	Paton pen., Kelso		Carroll	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 17	CORK	2	ST. JAMES'S GATE	1
	O'Keeffe (28m.), Kelso (49m.)		Comerford (19m.)	

Cork: Jimmy 'Fox' Foley, Bobby Hogg, Tom Burke, Paddy Lennon, Harry Chatton, Hughie Connolly, Bobby Buckle, Andy Haddow, John Kelso, Johnny Paton, Tim O'Keeffe.

St. James's Gate: Ned Pidgeon, Jack Hoey, Joe Moylan, Harry Simpson, Charlie Lennon, Dickie Murray, Billy Kennedy, Brendan Comerford, Alf Rigby, Charlie Dowdall, Mattie Geoghegan.

Attendance: 21,000 **Receipts: £1,429**

CHAPTER 14

1935: Illegal Players Lose Out

THE 1935 final is renowned as the highest-scoring Cup final, with Bohemians edging out Dundalk 4–3, but it also has another claim to fame – it featured the highest number of illegal players, two, and both lined out for Dundalk. The proximity of Dundalk to the border with Northern Ireland obviously proved too much of a temptation in those days when the Cup came round and the players listed as Mills and Gaughran in the final lineout were, in fact, prominent Irish League players.

Jimmy 'Ginger' Mailey, who later had a legitimate spell with Dundalk and also played for Plymouth Argyle, was right-winger Mills' correct identity; while the outside-left, who assumed the name Gaughran, was a player called Craig from Glenavon. "They played on Saturday in the Irish League and on Sunday with Dundalk," recalled Joey Donnelly, inside-right on that Dundalk team.

In the first round tie away to Shamrock Rovers, which Dundalk won 1–0, the border club fielded Black of Portadown, one of the best players in the North, under the name Gernon. Rovers obviously smelled a rat and subsequently objected to two of the Dundalk players but they lost the objection as they couldn't prove their point.

More to Dundalk's credit that year was the chance they took with full-back Billy O'Neill by moving him to centre-forward. O'Neill, capped eleven times for Ireland at right-back, more than justified the switch with a vital goal in each round of the Cup.

That Cup campaign also proved a turning-point in the life of Bohemians' inside-right Paddy Farrell, an Athlone man who had joined Bohs from Home Farm. Earlier in the season he had been in

the reserve team but coach Billy Lacey, the former Liverpool star, spotted a fault in his running action and corrected it in sessions on the cinder track which then lay behind the Tramway goal in Dalymount. It made a different player of Farrell.

Promoted to the first team, he scored in the 5–2 second-round defeat of Waterford and then scored the winner in the semi-final replay against League champions Dolphin. That brought him to the attention of Scottish club Hibernian who wanted to sign him straight away. His mother, a widow, was against it but withdrew her opposition when he promised to attend Edinburgh University and prepare for a career after football.

There followed a hectic two months of study for Farrell as he swotted for his matriculation examination, but this was all placed in jeopardy when, in the Cup final, he suffered a bad knee injury. However, Hibernian remained interested and Farrell sailed through his matriculation.

His contract with Hibernian was unique for, apart from a signing-on fee of £800, Hibs also undertook to pay his university fees as he studied dentistry and they arranged his training so that it didn't interfere with his lectures. He spent five years with Hibs, was capped three times and qualified as a dentist. After serving in the RAF during the war, he set up in private practice in Hull.

FIRST ROUND

January 13	**DISTILLERY** ..... 1 Recusin	**BUTCHERS (Cork)** ..... 1 Staunton
January 19	**REDS UNITED** ..... 3 Doyle, Lappin 2	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Ellis 2, French
January 20	**CORK** 0	**B+I** 0
	DOLPHIN ..... 1 Rogers	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Kavanagh, Meehan, McCosh	**TRAMORE ROOKIES** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 O'Neill
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 McCann o.g.	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 J. McDaid
	WATERFORD ..... 4 Ryan 2, Irvine, Walsh	**UCD** ..... 2 Hooper, Doherty

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 16	BUTCHERS (Cork) 0	DISTILLERY 0
January 23	BOHEMIANS ..... 4 Nolan 2, Dwyer, Menton	REDS UNITED ..... 3 Lappin, D. Flood, Finnegan
	CORK ..... 3 Neville, O'Keeffe, Madden	B+I 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 J. McDaid 2, Smith	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 Martini

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 23	DISTILLERY ..... 3 Dorney, Redmond, Molloy	BUTCHERS (Cork) 0

SECOND ROUND

February 9	BOHEMIANS ..... 5 Ellis 2, Horlacher 2, Farrell	WATERFORD ..... 2 Ryan, Irvine
	DISTILLERY ..... 1 Ward	DUNDALK ..... 2 O'Neill, Mills pen.
February 10	DRUMCONDRA 0	DOLPHIN ..... 2 Paterson 2
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 5 Monaghan 2, J. McDaid, G. McDaid, Bradley	CORK ..... 1 O'Neill

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 2	DOLPHIN ..... 1 Paterson pen.	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Ellis
March 6	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Ellis, Farrell	DOLPHIN ..... 1 Watt
March 24	DUNDALK ..... 2 Gaughran, O'Neill	SLIGO ROVERS 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 14	BOHEMIANS ..... 4 Menton (1m.), Jordan (26m., 27m.), Horlacher (35m.)	DUNDALK ..... 3 O'Neill (15m.), McCourt (31m.), T. Godwin (71m.)

Bohemians: Harry Cannon, Aloysius Morris, Bill McGuire, Paddy O'Kane, Paddy Andrews, Andy Maguire, Jimmy Menton, Paddy Farrell, Pleb Ellis, Fred Horlacher, Billy Jordan.

Dundalk: Peter McMahon, Billy Powell, Len Richards, Gerry Godwin, Tommy Godwin, Henry Hirst, 'Mills', Joey Donnelly, Billy O'Neill, Gerry McCourt, 'Gaughran'.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: £1,300.**

Paul Scully

CHAPTER 15

1936: Scully and Madden Make News

1936 was the year of Paul Scully and Owen Madden, with Jimmy Turnbull and Paddy Moore relegated to supporting roles even though they scored the bulk of their clubs' goals in a campaign which saw Shamrock Rovers capture the Cup for the seventh time at the expense of red-hot favourites Cork.

Scully was a teenage left-winger with a cannonball shot, who benefited enormously from playing alongside the great Paddy Moore. Top scorer for Rovers in the League, Scully also produced the goods in the Cup, scoring in each round en route to the final. His tears were understandable then when, the Thursday before the final, the teamsheet was posted up after training and his name was missing, with reserve wing-half Denis 'Dinger' Dunne taking his place.

Dunne was probably the luckiest player ever to win a Cup medal for he made no impression at Milltown before or after his surprise selection for the Cup final. The Cunningham family had just taken over Rovers and Dunne's selection was merely the forerunner to some other strange Cup final selections they indulged in over the years.

On this occasion, they almost had a players' strike on their hands for, with minutes to go before the kick-off, not a single Rovers player had stripped, in protest at Scully's omission. The matter was only resolved at the last minute by the direct intervention of Scully himself who pleaded with his team-mates not to risk suspension on his account.

Meanwhile Cork had their own problems although they didn't surface until after the final. Owen Madden, their teenage inside-left

and reckoned to be the best player Cork ever produced, had signed for Norwich City after the semi-final win over Drumcondra. In a direct reversal of the 'open door' policy which League of Ireland clubs availed of to sign disenchanted English League players, he had accepted a signing-on fee from the East Anglian club and so was a Norwich player when he played for Cork in the final.

He later went on tour with the international team and scored on his debut in Hungary in a 3–3 draw. However, he also picked up an injury in that game and had to return to Norwich for treatment. The Cork club officials, annoyed that they were getting no fee from Madden's move, reported him to the FAI Council which promptly suspended him. In the true hypocritical manner which surrounded all the official action of this case, Madden was reinstated in 1939 and called up for the international match to be played in Cork against Hungary. He accepted the lifting of the suspension but declined the invitation to play.

Jimmy Turnbull was probably the most talked about player in Irish football that season, hitting a phenomenal thirty-seven goals in twenty-two League games and then getting a record eleven goals during the FAI Cup campaign. A champion sprinter, it was his goalscoring as much as anything which made Cork such hot favourites in the final. He duly obliged with a goal against Rovers, but Paddy Moore had the last word and it was his performance and winning goal which saw Cork return to the Lee empty-handed. There was consolation for Turnbull the following year when he scored all the goals in Belfast Celtic's 3–0 win over Linfield in the IFA Cup final.

FIRST ROUND

January 1	GSR	1	REDS UNITED	4
	R. Buckle		J. J. Flood, Sinnott 2, Wright	
January 11	BOHEMIANS	7	WATERFORD	0
	Jordan 2, Gaughran 3, Horlacher, O'Kane			
January 12	CORK	2	BRAY UNKNOWNS	2
	Turnbull 2		Reynolds, Bellew	
	DOLPHIN	1	DRUMCONDRA	0
	Leonard pen.		(Abandoned: Encroachment of spectators.)	
	DUNDALK	7	B&I	1
	Sayers 3, Donnelly 2, Morgan, McCourt		M. Kavanagh	

	HOSPITALS TRUST	2	SLIGO ROVERS	5
	P. Molloy 2 (1 pen.)		Monaghan, Mulreany 2, G. McDaid 2	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS	1	ST. JAMES'S GATE	1
	M. Byrne		Comerford	
	TRAMORE ROOKIES	1	BRIDEVILLE	5
	Flaherty		McGonagle 4, Murphy	

FIRST ROUND RE-FIXTURE: TOLKA PARK

January 16	DOLPHIN	3	DRUMCONDRA	6
	Rogers 2, Bermingham		Kerr 3, Donnelly 2, Bermingham o.g.	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 15	BRAY UNKNOWNS	1	CORK	6
	Reynolds (After extra time)		Connolly, Turnbull 2, Little, Foy, McKane	
	ST. JAMES'S GATE	1	SHAMROCK ROVERS	2
	Hoey pen.		'Babby' Byrne, Scully	

SECOND ROUND

February 8	BOHEMIANS	1	CORK	1
	Horlacher pen.		Turnbull	
	DUNDALK	2	REDS UNITED	1
	Sayers, Mailey		Doyle	
February 9	DRUMCONDRA	1	SLIGO ROVERS	1
	Donnelly		McCann	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS	5	BRIDEVILLE	1
	Reid, Moore 2, Daly o.g. Scully		O'Reilly pen.	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

February 12	SLIGO ROVERS	1	DRUMCONDRA	1
	O'Neill (After extra time.)		Donnelly	
February 19	CORK	3	BOHEMIANS	2
	Turnbull 2, Connolly		Horlacher 2	

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 19	DRUMCONDRA	3	SLIGO ROVERS	2
	Donnelly, Meehan, Keohane		Monaghan 2	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 1	SHAMROCK ROVERS	2	DUNDALK	2
	Moore, Glen pen.		Morgan, McCourt	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: IVEAGH GROUNDS

March 4	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Ward, Scully	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 O'Neill pen.

SEMI-FINAL: THE MARDYKE

March 22	**CORK** ..... 5 Turnbull 3, King, O'Reilly	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Meehan, Donnelly

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 19	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Moore (46m.) Reid (53m.)	**CORK** ..... 1 Turnbull (80m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Billy Behan, Joe Williams, Peadar Gaskins, William 'Sacky' Glen, Jim Blake, Owen Kinsella, Mick Byrne, Paddy Moore, Charlie Reid, Joe Ward, Denis 'Dinger' Dunne.

Cork: Bill Harrington, Hugh Foy, Charlie Wade, Bill Williams, Billy Little, Hugh Connolly, Jack O'Reilly, Bertie King, Jimmy Turnbull, Owen Madden, Andy Percy.

Attendance: 30,946 **Receipts: £1,899/16/0.**

CHAPTER 16

1937
Noonan Misses the Bus

WHEN 1937 Cup finalists Waterford and Saint James's Gate met a few weeks before their big date in a League game at Kilcohan Park, the Gate held all the aces and won comfortably 4–2. It was obvious to all concerned with Waterford that changes would have to be made if the Cup was to be won. However, the selectors dropped a bombshell when they decided to drop centre-forward Johnny Walsh and replace him with right-back Eugene Noonan, who had been given a roasting by Mattie Geoghegan in the League game. Noonan had never played centre-forward before, while Walsh had scored in practically every round of the Cup. Scotsman Hugh Foy, who had been understudy to right-half Waltie Walsh all season, came in at right-full, the same position he filled in the 1936 Cup final for Cork.

"I was on the train to Dublin when the club chairman Gerry Whelan came to me and said that they had decided to play me at centre-forward," recalled Noonan. "I protested, asserting I had never played in the position in my life, but the chairman said I must obey orders. That was shock No. 1, but the second was even worse for, coming out of the hotel after lunch, I found that the Waterford bus had gone! I looked at the crowds clinging to the trams and wondered would I ever see Dalymount Park, but finally I got a foot on board and clung on until we reached Phibsboro."

Noonan always admitted that the Cup final was not one of his better games, but he did prove effective. "I hardly knew where I was for the first 20 minutes," he said, "but when Johnny McGourty side-footed the ball across, its swerve beat Charlie Lennon, the Gate centre-half, and dropped at my feet to be tapped with the left and

pushed into the net with my right." Noonan was a Corkman, as was Waterford's other goalscorer that day, left-winger Tim O'Keeffe.

The tears flowed freely as captain Tom Arrigan lifted the Cup in what was only the Suirside club's fifth season of League football. The Shield had been captured earlier and, with the League going to Sligo Rovers, all the major trophies had a provincial destination for the first time.

Arrigan, who formed with local Waltie Walsh and North of Ireland man Terry Fullerton one of the strongest half-back lines in the country, had returned to his native Waterford after three successful seasons with Glentoran, during which he won Cup medals in 1933 and 1935 and captained the Glens to their 1935 IFA Cup triumph. John 'Fatty' Phelan, the third local player on the team, was captain when Waterford reached the 1941 final and by then he had made an unusual switch – from outside-right to centre-half – and was picked for Inter-League honours in the latter role.

The Waterford team, who earned a £5 bonus for winning the Cup, were all full-timers with the exception of Phelan. Wages were £3.50 for everybody except the star left-wing pair of former Everton star McGourty and O'Keeffe, who each received £4. Waltie Walsh had been a part-timer like Phelan on £1.50 but turned full-time midway through the season.

Davie Christopher from nearby Butlerstown was the team's trainer. He had served in that capacity with Scottish club Hibernian and completed an FAI Cup double when he trained the Shelbourne team that won the Cup in 1939. He was a former professional sprinter.

FIRST ROUND

January 9	**FEARONS ATHLETIC** ..... 4 Leonard, Byrne 2, Reid	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Kelly
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Slater	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Geoghegan
January 10	**CORK** ..... 3 Whitenell, King, Symonds pen.	**QUEEN'S PARK** ..... 2 D. Ryan, J. Bermingham
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Donnelly	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Gill
	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 2 McManus, P. Clarke	**EVERGREEN** ..... 1 Fitzgerald
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Boyle	**DOLPHIN** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 6 Monaghan, Litherland 2, Duncan, Hughes 2	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 O'Kane
	WATERFORD ..... 3 O'Keeffe pen., Phelan, McGourty	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Smith pen., Donnelly, Halpin

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

January 13	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 Meehan, Donnelly 2	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Johnston 2
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 4 Geoghegan, Kennedy, Rigby 2	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Slater pen., Doyle
January 14	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Mailey	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 O'Keeffe

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

January 21	**WATERFORD** ..... 3 J. Walsh 2, Gill	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Donnelly

SECOND ROUND

February 7	**CORK** 0	**FEARONS ATHLETIC** 0
	(Abandoned: 55m., bad weather.)	
	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 2 W. Clarke, P. Clarke	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Meehan
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 6 Rigby 4, Merry 2	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Monaghan, Gourley
	WATERFORD ..... 2 O'Keeffe 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

SECOND ROUND RE-FIXTURE

February 10	**CORK** 0	**FEARONS ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Hogan

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 10	**WATERFORD** ..... 4 O'Keeffe, Arrigan, J. Walsh Phelan	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 1 P. Clarke
March 21	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 4 W. Byrne 3, Comerford	**FEARONS ATHLETIC** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 18	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 Noonan (35m.), O'Keeffe (75m.)	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Merry (80m.)

Waterford: Alf Robinson, Hugh Foy, Jock McDonnell, Waltie Walsh, Terry Fullerton, Tom Arrigan, John 'Fatty' Phelan, George Gill, Eugene Noonan, Johnny McGourty, Tim O'Keeffe.

St. James's Gate: John Webster, Alec Stewart, Jimmy Daly, Joe O'Reilly, Charlie Lennon, Maurice Cummins, Billy Kennedy, Billy Merry, Alf Rigby, Dickie Comerford, Mattie Geoghegan.

Attendance: 24,000 **Receipts:** £1,600.

It's a Record

- Jimmy Turnbull (Cork) scored eleven goals in the 1936 Cup campaign.
- Waterford beat Rialto 11–1 at Kilcohan Park in the first round in 1972.

Willie "Wagger" Byrne.

CHAPTER 17

1938
The Honourable 'Wagger' Byrne

WHEN Willie 'Wagger' Byrne scored a hat-trick in the 1937 Cup semi-final, he could be forgiven if he thought he had secured his place on the Cup final team. However, the selectors thought differently and it was a tearful Byrne who watched from the Dalymount Park stand as his St. James's Gate teammates lost to Waterford. The words of the selectors – 'you're young and your chance will come' – had a hollow ring about them as far as the 23-year-old Byrne was concerned.

Still, he did his utmost to fulfil their prophecy the following season, scoring vital goals in the first and second rounds of the Cup as the Gate advanced to the semi-finals at the expense of Cork and Limerick. The semi-final proved a difficult task, the opposition being provided by Leinster League side Distillery, reckoned by many the best non-League team ever who were just about to embark on a four-in-a-row in the Intermediate Cup. It took a piece of typical Byrne skill to win the penalty which decided the issue in the replay.

It had been a great season for Byrne, his link-up with Charlie Reid netting him twenty-five goals in the League and eleven in the Shield, apart from his Cup efforts. Although small, he had tremendous pace and an eye for goal which brought the offer of a trial with West Brom, an offer he declined as he was the sole breadwinner for his parents and the other four young children in the family.

Unfortunately, his luck ran out when he was injured scoring in a League game against Drumcondra a week before the Cup final. Not realising the extent of the ankle injury – of course, there were no substitutes in those days – he hobbled on, making a bad situation

worse. It was a race against time whether he would be fit for the following Sunday but, despite intensive treatment all week, time ran out for 'Wagger' on the morning of the final when he made the difficult decision himself. He had passed the club's fitness test the previous day but still felt the twinges in his ankle and, rather than risk leaving his teammates to carry on with ten men, he cried off.

It was an honourable decision, which was rewarded with a Cup medal when the Gate beat Dundalk 2–1, but it also marked his last chance of playing in a Cup final. Subsequent moves to Dundalk, Shelbourne and Brideville never got him any further than the semi-final stage.

Spare a thought also for Dundalk centre-forward Alf Rigby, who scored on his third Cup final appearance but had to settle for a loser's medal for the third time. His two previous appearances were for St. James's Gate in 1934 and 1937 so it was ironic that the Gate should deny him after his move to Dundalk.

It was Dundalk's third time to contest the Cup final in eight years and each time they had lost by a single goal. They could be excused if they thought there was a jinx on their efforts but this time their defeat had more natural causes. Regular centre-half Bob Moloney broke his leg playing for the League of Ireland against the Irish League just four days after the semi-final defeat of Shamrock Rovers and his replacement, Jimmy Bowden, didn't have a happy Cup final.

FIRST ROUND

February 5	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Stevenson		LIMERICK ..... 2 Davies, J. Smith
February 6	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 4 Smyth 2, Buchanan, Hughes		SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Bradley
	DISTILLERY ..... 2 Hogan, Martini		COBH RAMBLERS ..... 1 Wall
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 M. Farrell, Healy pen.		CORK BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Curtin
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 3 Byrne 2, Geoghegan		CORK 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 McPherson		DUNDALK ..... 1 McArdle
	TERENURE ATHLETIC 0		SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
	WATERFORD ..... 3 O'Keeffe 2, McGourty		BRIDEVILLE ..... 1 Maxwell

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 9	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Snowe, Ward		TERENURE ATHLETIC .... 1 Staunton

February 10	DUNDALK ..... 2 Griffiths, McAfee		SLIGO ROVERS 0

SECOND ROUND

February 26	DRUMCONDRA 0		DISTILLERY ..... 4 Molloy, Campbell, Lambert 2
February 27	LIMERICK ..... 1 Mahony		ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 Kennedy
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Williams pen.		BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 Doran
	WATERFORD ..... 2 O'Donnell, Phelan		DUNDALK ..... 3 McArdle, Donnelly, Rigby

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 2	BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 Hughes		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Ward
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 5 Geoghegan 3, Reid, W. Byrne		LIMERICK ..... 2 Kelly, Davies

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 9	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Ward, Snowe		BRAY UNKNOWNS ..... 1 Smyth

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 12	DISTILLERY ..... 2 Martini, Doyle		ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 2 Gaskins pen., Balfe
March 13	DUNDALK ..... 2 Donnelly pen., Rigby		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Dunne

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: SHELBOURNE PARK

March 23	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 3 Balfe 2, Gaskins pen.		DISTILLERY ..... 2 Byrne, Lambert

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 10	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 2 Comerford (16m.), Gaskins pen. (49m.)		DUNDALK ..... 1 Rigby (47m.)

St. James's Gate: John Webster, Alec Stewart, Larry Doyle, Joe O'Reilly, Peadar Gaskins, Charlie Lennon, Billy Kennedy, Teddy Balfe, Dickie Comerford, Charlie Reid, Mattie Geoghegan.

Dundalk: Charlie Tizard, Billy O'Neill, Mick Hoy, Billy McAfee, Jimmy Bowden, Dicky Lunn, Jimmy McArdle, Mungo Patterson, Alf Rigby, Joey Donnelly, Danner Griffiths.

Attendance: 30,000 **Receipts: £1,680.**

Shelbourne 1939. From left, front row: C. Lennon, J. Preston, A. Weir, P. Guilfoyle, W. Little (captain), J. Cullen, H. Sharkey, J. Balfe, S. Smyth. Second row: T. Priestley, W. Glen, J. Trainor, J. Webster, P. Lynch, T. Flynn, K. Harris. Back row: V. Harris (coach), J. Taylor, M. Carrick, D. Christopher (trainer), M. O'Brien, T. Lifton.

CHAPTER 18

1939: 'Sacky' Denies 'Dixie'

1939 SHOULD have been the year of William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean in the FAI Cup but the former Everton star was denied by another veteran, William 'Sacky' Glen, the former Shamrock Rovers star who was finishing out his career with arch-rivals Shelbourne.

Dean, who had finished his English League career with Notts County, signed for Sligo Rovers in time for the Cup and he made an instant impact both on and off the pitch. In one League game against Waterford he hit five goals, while his appearance in the Sligo shirt was enough to guarantee a full house, such was the public's interest in the man who held the English League record of 60 goals in a season.

Glen, meanwhile, had had an enviable record on the Irish scene, since he made his debut with Rovers in the 1921-22 season as an eighteen-year-old wing-half. He had won seven Cup medals with the Milltown club and was a regular on the Irish team until he had a disagreement with Rovers' boss, Joe Cunninghan, and left for Brideville. From Brideville he came to Shelbourne for the 1938-39 season.

Part of Glen's armoury was his ability to hit a dead ball with more than ordinary power and it was this which proved decisive in the final replay. Dean had scored first in the final only for Sammy Smyth to equalise direct from a corner. Glen's second minute free kick, variously described as from 30 to 40 yards, settled the issue in the replay before many of the vast crowd had passed through the turnstiles.

Shelbourne centre-forward Tom Flynn, who had been signed from

Grimsby Town in time for the second round second replay with Bray and scored the winner in that game, had a vivid memory of Glen's winner: "It has often been said that Sacky's goal was a lucky shot but that's not true. It was planned in the dressing-room by our manager Val Harris, the former Everton player. Sean Balfe and I stood in the wall and moved aside when Sacky struck the ball. It worked as well as any that Rivelino ever struck for Brazil."

Despite their defeat, Sligo Rovers went ahead with their celebrations after the match – with dramatic results. In the course of the evening Dean's runners-up medal was stolen and he had to return to Liverpool empty-handed. However, seven years later, while he was licensee of the Dublin Packet in Chester, he received the medal in a parcel sent anonymously from Ireland.

For two of the winning Shelbourne team the Cup final occasion had a familiar ring. Goalkeeper John Webster and left-half Charlie Lennon were playing in their third consecutive final, having played for St. James's Gate in the 1937 and 1938 finals.

Shelbourne's victory was all the more meritorious because they had to line out without Northern Ireland international winger Tom Priestley in the drawn game. Priestley, a Presbyterian, wouldn't play on a Sunday. He returned to action for the replay and played his part in Shels' historic first Cup triumph.

FAI officials were in a happy mood for, quite apart from the double set of receipts, the comparisons with the IFA Cup final put the FAI in a favourable light. While the FAI final attracted a crowd of over 30,000 and receipts of £1,680, the IFA final between Belfast Celtic and Bangor could only attract receipts of £646.

FIRST ROUND

February 5	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 1 Quaine	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 T. Byrne, Fitzgerald
February 11	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Stewart o.g., Sharkey	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 0
	UCD ..... 1 P. Crean	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Leeney
February 12	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Boyle, Fullen	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Foy, McNally
	BRIDEVILLE ..... 1 Jackson	**DISTILLERY** ..... 5 Brazil 3, J. Doyle pen., Maxwell
	CORK CITY ..... 1 Davis	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Hay pen., Monaghan

	DUNDALK ..... 2 Hutchinson o.g., Byrne	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Litherland
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Cotter	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Paterson

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 15	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Buchanan	**UCD** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 O'Kane
February 16	**WATERFORD** ..... 3 Paterson 2, Regan	**LIMERICK** 0

SECOND ROUND

March 4	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Doran, Leeney	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Weir 2
March 5	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 K. O'Flanagan 2, O'Kane	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Byrne
	DUNDALK ..... 4 Morgan 2, Gaughran, McArdle	**WATERFORD** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 G. McDaid, Johnstone	**DISTILLERY** ..... 1 Scully

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 8	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Weir, Balfe (After extra time.)	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Hill pen., Doran

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 15	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Flynn

SEMI-FINAL: MILLTOWN

March 25	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Weir	**BOHEMIANS** 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 26	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 O'Connor, Began	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 McArdle

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Smyth (80m.)	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Dean (43m.)

Shelbourne: John Webster, William 'Sacky' Glen, Johnny Preston, Hugh Sharkey, Billy Little, Charlie Lennon, Patrick Drain, Alec Weir, Tom Flynn, Sean Balfe, Sammy Smyth.

Sligo Rovers: David Cranston, Gerry McDaid, Daniel Livesley, William Hay, Alf Peachey, John Burns, Matt Began, Hugh O'Connor, William 'Dixie' Dean, William Johnstone, Paddy 'Monty' Monaghan.

Attendance: 30,000 **Receipts: £1,835.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

May 3 **SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 **SLIGO ROVERS** 0
Glen (2m.)

Shelbourne: Tom Priestley for Drain. **Sligo Rovers:** Grahan for Burns.

Attendance: 25,000 **Receipts: £1,640.**

It's a Record

- Bill Cleary (Bohemians) scored six goals against Bray Unknowns in a first-round re-fixture in 1930.
- The highest scoring final was in 1935 when Bohemians beat Dundalk 4–3.

CHAPTER 19

1940: Jimmy Dunne's Day

Jimmy Dunne

JIMMY DUNNE, called 'Snowy' because of his mop of blond hair, had to leave Ireland to establish himself as a first team centre-forward but he did so with such success that his record is second to none. And when he eventually returned to Shamrock Rovers as player-coach he led the Milltown club to successive League titles, topped off with the FAI Cup in 1940.

A product of Dublin's hot bed of soccer, Ringsend, Dunne's career was interrupted early on when he was interned in the Tintown camp on the Curragh during the Civil War. Upon his release he was signed by Rovers but couldn't get a first team place due to the brilliance of Billy 'Juicy' Farrell and the Grand Slam team of 1924-25. Instead he played his football in the Leinster Senior League with the reserves, scoring with great regularity and eventually coming to the notice of a scout for English Third Division side New Brighton. The scout wrote to England saying that he had spotted 'a future Irish centre-forward' and Dunne bore out his prophecy.

He made a quick impact at New Brighton and was then signed by First Division Sheffield United who kept him in their reserves for a number of seasons before giving him his head in the League side. Dunne never looked back after that, establishing a club record 41 goals in season 1930-31 and recording many hat-tricks in a glittering career.

He had no difficulty making his mark in the international arena either and his fourteen goals in fifteen games bears ample testimony to his ability at the highest level. He was also capped by the IFA, scoring four goals in seven Internationals.

A near record fee of £8,000 tempted Sheffield United to sell Dunne to Arsenal where he won a League medal before moving to Southampton. Everywhere he went he was acclaimed not only as a great footballer but also as a gentleman. On one of his trips with Ireland after he had left Southampton, the Irish party passed through Southampton docks and the local dock workers gave vent to rousing cheers when they sighted Dunne.

From Southampton he was enticed home by his old club and he quickly helped Rovers to success with League victories in 1937-38 and 1938-39. Cup victory in 1940 was the icing on the cake for Dunne, who contributed a goal in the 3–0 win over Sligo Rovers which attracted a record crowd of almost 40,000 and receipts of over £2,000 for the first time. Dunne was truly one of Dublin's favourite sons at that time.

Two other players had not so pleasant memories of that Cup campaign. Drumcondra wing-half Billy Mulville had his leg broken in a tackle with Rovers' centre-half Bob Bryson in the second round tie at Tolka Park. There was no stretcher available – it hadn't returned from its previous hospital visit – and the crowd was so great that Mulville had to be placed on the blackboard used for tactical talks and lifted over the heads of the crowd. "I was more afraid of falling off the blackboard than of my broken leg," he recalled.

Sligo Rovers' forward Paddy Barlow had only recently signed from Huddersfield Town where he had suffered a bad injury. He hadn't played in the Cup but he had done so well in League games that he fancied his chance of a Cup final place. Instead he was told: "You're our best forward, but Mattie Began has been lucky for us." Began had scored Sligo's winners in the semi-finals of 1939 and 1940 but his luck ran out against Rovers. For Barlow Cup glory was only delayed.

FIRST ROUND

February 3	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Bradshaw	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Burns
February 4	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 5 Leeney 4, Doran	**GRATTAN UNITED** ..... 2 Ring 2 (1 pen.)
	BRIDEVILLE ..... 3 O'Reilly, Dunn, Reid	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 P. Morris
	DRUMCONDRA ..... W/O	**CORK CITY** ..... Scratch
	(Cork City expelled by FAI.)	
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Donnelly	**DISTILLERY** ..... 2 Scully, Reid

	LIMERICK ..... 1 J. O'Mahony	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Ward, Dunne, Reynolds
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 McAleer 2, Burnsides	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 2 Quaine 2
	WATERFORD ..... 3 O'Keeffe 2, Sharkey	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 1 Griffin

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 14	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Naughton, Delaney, Osborne	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 4 Jackson, Rogers, Bradshaw, Geoghegan

SECOND ROUND

February 24	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 2 Jackson, Smith	**DISTILLERY** 0
February 25	**BRIDEVILLE** 0	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Connor, Prout
	DRUMCONDRA 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Ward
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Coad, O'Keeffe	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Leeney, Meehan

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

February 28	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 2 Buchanan, Richardson	**WATERFORD** 0

SEMI-FINAL: SHELBOURNE PARK

March 30	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Clark, Fallon	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Prout pen., Began	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Kennedy

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Ward (38m.), Fallon (75m.), Dunne (85m.)	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Mick McCarthy, Mattie Clarke, Shay Healy, Harry Finnegan, Bobby Bryson, Joe Creevy, Joe Ward, Jimmy Dunne, Jimmy Clark, Bill Cameron, Billy Fallon.

Sligo Rovers: Jimmy Twomey, Denis Thompson, Bill Powell, Jim McCann, Alf Peachey, Tom Arrigan, Matt Began, Bob Gregg, Joe McAleer, Jimmy Connor, Sam Prout.

Attendance: 38,509 **Receipts:** £2,225.

CHAPTER 20

1941: The Cork All-Stars

1941 saw the emergence of the great Cork United side which was to dominate the League of Ireland scene during the 1940s, but failed to get a regular hold on the FAI Cup. A combination of returned exiles and quality home players who in normal times would have gone to English clubs made Cork one of the most exciting and successful teams in League of Ireland history. However, while they won the League five times in six seasons, they could only manage two Cup triumphs from four finals.

The team that beat Waterford in 1941 to complete the League and Cup double included three returned exiles in goalkeeper Jimmy 'Fox' Foley (ex-Glasgow Celtic and Plymouth Argyle) and wingers Jack O'Reilly (ex-Norwich) and Owen Madden (ex-Birmingham). Also included were two outstanding young talents, centre-forward Sean McCarthy and inside-left Liam O'Neill, plus three former Newry Town players, Paddy Duffy, Jimmy Hooks and Mick McKenna. It's interesting to note that Waterford also relied heavily on Cork talent with goalkeeper Denis Daly, full-back Tommy Myers and wingers Jackie O'Driscoll and Tim O'Keeffe all from Leeside.

Not surprisingly, rivalry was keen and the replay saw Cork's captain Madden and Waterford winger O'Driscoll despatched to the line for fighting – the first time players had been sent off in a Cup final. Madden, who admitted that his expulsion was justified, later had to collect the Cup when Cork finished 3–1 winners of the replay.

The loss of O'Driscoll was a sore blow to Waterford for he had been having a good game and was their top scorer in the Cup. It was the second blow to their hopes, inside-left Billy Cameron, a Scotsman who had won a Cup medal with Shamrock Rovers in 1940,

missing the final through injury. His replacement, Maurice Hartery, was usually included as a winger. "We arrived for the final on Saturday and stayed in the Four Courts Hotel," recalled Paddy Coad, the Waterford star who was to become synonymous with the Cup. "Our trainer, Davy Christopher, was keen on exercise and walking, so we had to walk the following day from the hotel to Dalymount. The Cork team passed us in their taxis and gave us a razzing. After the drawn game we went home that night but Cork went out to Bray and stayed there preparing for the replay."

"We were full-time professionals at that time," recalled Owen Madden, who was a retained Birmingham player and was asked to return after the war but declined. "That gave us a big advantage. In the summer we got a signing-on fee to tide us over until the following season. With winning the Leagues we were probably over-confident in the Cup. We were so used to winning the League that there was no big bonus for the Cup."

A second-round tie, which contained more than its share of drama, was that between Shelbourne and Dundalk. Three games were needed before Dundalk got through but it was the second game, at Oriel Park, which proved most dramatic. "The game was stopped when we were losing 2–0 because the crowd invaded the pitch after Tom Crawley laid out Shels' winger Mickey Delaney," recalled Dundalk captain Joey Donnelly. "We were in the dressingroom changing when Sam Prole and FAI Secretary, Joe Wickham, came in and said we'd forfeit the game if we didn't go out." When the game resumed Dundalk went a further goal behind before rallying for a 3–3 draw. Dundalk's run ended with a semi-final defeat by Cork United, but the money earned allowed the management to strengthen the team for the following season when the Cup was won for the first time.

Another player with good reason to remember the 1941 Cup campaign was Peter Farrell, later to become a regular with Everton and the Republic of Ireland. "I was an eighteen-year-old schoolboy attending Dun Laoghaire CBS when I was picked to play for Shamrock Rovers in the Cup," he recalled. "I missed out on junior football because Rovers spotted me in a schoolboys Cup final and signed me after. It's funny because I hated Rovers as a kid. Bray Unknowns were my team – I would have paid money to play for Bray. My debut came about when I turned up for Rovers 'B' on the Saturday and was told I wasn't playing. I thought I had been dropped but I had to go to Milltown on the Sunday and Jimmy Dunne told me he had a sore heel and I was playing inside-right. Joe Ward was playing outside me and he scored four goals as we beat Cork Bohs 8–3."

FIRST ROUND

February 8	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Boland, Dunn	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 O'Brien, Kennedy	**JACOBS** ..... 1 Martini
February 9	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 O'Keeffe
	DUNDALK ..... 5 Bryan 2, Barlow 2, Reid	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Smith
	EVERGREEN 0	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 O'Neill, McCarthy
	LIMERICK ..... 1 O'Mahony	**DISTILLERY** 0
	LONGFORD TOWN 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Carroll 2, Delaney, W. Byrne, Fallon
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 8 Ward 4, Clark 2, Geoghegan, Buchanan	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Whitenell, Curtin, Byrne

SECOND ROUND

March 1	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 4 Byrne, Doyle, Feenan, Carroll	**DUNDALK** ..... 4 McArdle, Donnelly, Barlow, Hirst
March 2	**CORK UNITED** ..... 4 McCarthy, Nash, McFarlane, O'Neill	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 O'Brien, O'Riordan o.g.
	LIMERICK ..... 3 Cassidy, O'Mahony pen., McAleer	**WATERFORD** ..... 5 Cameron, Meek o.g., Coad, O'Driscoll 2
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Dunne, Geoghegan 2	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Cronin

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 6	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Donnelly, McArdle, Crawley pen.	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 W. Byrne, Dinneen, J. Doyle

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 12	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Reid, Bryan	**SHELBOURNE** 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 29	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Ward, Clark	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 O'Driscoll, Coad
March 30	**CORK UNITED** ..... 3 O'Neill, McFarlane, Madden	**DUNDALK** 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 9	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 O'Driscoll	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Clark

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 10	**WATERFORD** ..... 3 O'Keeffe 2 (1 pen.), Johnstone	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Dunne 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 O'Reilly 2 (29m., 78m.)	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 O'Driscoll (5m.), Johnstone (72m.)

Cork United: Jimmy 'Fox' Foley, Johnny McGowan, Paddy Duffy, Jimmy Hooks, Jerry O'Riordan, Mick McKenna, Jack O'Reilly, Bobby McFarlane, Sean McCarthy, Liam O'Neill, Owen Madden.

Waterford: Denis 'Tol' Daly, Johnny Hartery, Tommy Myers, Michael O'Mahony, John 'Fatty' Phelan, Waltie Walsh, Jackie O'Driscoll, Paddy Coad, Johnny Johnstone, Maurice Hartery, Tim O'Keeffe.

Attendance: 30,132 **Receipts: £1,910**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	**CORK UNITED** ..... 3 McCarthy (20m.), O'Reilly 2 (63m., 80m.)	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Johnstone (38m.)

Both teams unchanged.

Attendance: 13,057 **Receipts: £750.**

It's a Record

- Athlone Town (1924) were the first team to win the Cup without conceding a goal.
- The Bohemians–Shamrock Rovers final in 1945 attracted a crowd of 41,238.
- The Dundalk–Sligo Rovers final in 1981 grossed receipts of £27,000.

Dundalk 1942. From left, front row: Paddy Barlow, Art Kelly, Joe Donnelly (captain), Johnny Lavery, Jimmy McArdle, Sammy McCartney. Back row: Johnny Leathem, Frank Grice, Gerry Matier, Tom Crawley, Billy O'Neill.

CHAPTER 21

1942: Dressingroom Drama

DUNDALK finally ended the Cup hoodoo which seemed to affect their earlier efforts when they beat League champions Cork United, chasing their second successive double, in a classic 1942 final in which the drama wasn't confined to the pitch. In fact, the pre-match deliberations in the Dundalk dressingroom are the real story of that famous victory.

The drama started at the semi-final stage when Dundalk, up to their old tricks, fielded Bangor inside-forward Cowzer against Shamrock Rovers. Dundalk won after a replay but Rovers didn't object. However, one of the Dundalk players, Frank Grice, who was from Northern Ireland and had played for Notts County and Tottenham, told captain Joey Donnelly that Cowzer wasn't free to sign for Dundalk and that if there had been an objection Dundalk would have lost it. Donnelly then asserted himself by informing reserve Jimmy McArdle that he would be playing in the final and advising him to do some extra training.

Cowzer and McArdle were both present in Dalymount on Cup final day but the Dundalk Committee, while acknowledging that Cowzer was illegal and couldn't be played, decided to opt for Dickie Lunn at wing-half, with Grice moving into the attack. This didn't satisfy Donnelly, who knew that Lunn – known as the Mighty Atom and 5–4 in height – stood no chance in the air against Cork's Florrie Burke, a commanding 6-footer. The captain asked the Committee to think again and pick the right team!

"They had a second meeting and poor Lunn, who had stripped and been rubbed down, was then dropped and McArdle chosen,"

recalled Donnelly. "Lunn said it was the only time he'd been stripped and rubbed down to sit on the line! Johnny Leathem nearly caused a row over Lunn being dropped but I'm glad to say McArdle had a big part in our win."

Dundalk's win had an extra special meaning for Donnelly. Apart from being one of four Dundalk men in the team – O'Neill, Crawley and McArdle were the others – 1942 was also his benefit year after years of loyal service to the Border club. Donnelly, who shone at wing-half and inside-forward and was capped ten times for Ireland, is reckoned the best player Dundalk ever produced.

For Dundalk outside-right Paddy Barlow the final represented a triumph over adversity for, just three years earlier, he had been told by specialists that he would never play again. A promising career at English First Division club Huddersfield Town was ended but, showing great character, he fought back to fitness and defied the medical profession by his achievements with Dundalk.

One of the surprising features of the final was the size of the attendance. With Wartime travel restrictions in force and both teams from the provinces, the crowd of 34,298 must have included many who walked long distances to witness this final between two of the great teams of the 1940s.

The 1942 Cup campaign is also remembered for the outcry among Shamrock Rovers' supporters when player-coach Jimmy Dunne was dropped for the semi-final against Dundalk. Dunne was dropped for Des Westby and not Paddy Coad as is often stated. Some of Dunne's Ringsend fans were so incensed that they dug up Rovers supremo Joe Cunningham's lawn in protest!

FIRST ROUND

February 8	**CORK BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Carroll, Whitenell	**CORK UNITED** ..... 5 Fenton, O'Neill, McCarthy 2, Madden
	DUNDALK ..... 2 Kelly, Lavery	**DISTILLERY** ..... 1 Cullen
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Byrne	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Jordan, Breslin
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Dunne, Coad, Cochrane	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 1 Smyth

BYES: BRAY UNKNOWNS, DRUMCONDRA, SAINT JAMES'S GATE, SHELBOURNE.

SECOND ROUND

February 28	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Hayden	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Barlow, Lavery
March 1	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 3 Brazil 2, O'Brien	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Cochrane, Farrell, Dunne
	CORK UNITED ..... 1 O'Neill	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 McNamara, Daly	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Breslin, Smith

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 4	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 McGrane	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 Meehan 2, T. O'Brien
March 5	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 6 Bryson pen., Comerford 2, Dunne 2, Coad	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** ..... 1 Brazil

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 5	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Coad	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 McCartney

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 8	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Barlow, Kelly	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Coad

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 12	**CORK UNITED** ..... 4 S, McCarthy 4	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Ward 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 26	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Kelly 2 (57m., 70m.) Lavery (84m.)	**CORK UNITED** ..... 1 O'Reilly (52m.)

Dundalk: Gerry Matier, Billy O'Neill, Tom Crawley, Joey Donnelly, Johnny 'Hec' Leathem, Frank Grice, Paddy Barlow, Jimmy McArdle, Art Kelly, Johnny Lavery, Sammy McCartney.

Cork United: Jimmy 'Fox' Foley, Billy Hayes, Paddy Duffy, Johnny McGowan, Jerry O'Riordan, Richie Noonan, Jack O'Reilly, Florrie Burke, Sean McCarthy, Liam O'Neill, Owen Madden.

Attendance: 34,298 **Receipts: £2,028.**

Drumcondra 1943. From left, front row: Leo Ward, Fergie McGlynn, Tommy McNamara (captain), Tommy O'Rourke, Dickie McGrane. Back row: Paddy Daly, Kevin Clarke, Ned Flynn, Jim O'Mara, Paddy Dyer, Billy Mulville, Jock McCosh (trainer).

CHAPTER 22

1943: McNamara's Band

CORK UNITED were among the hottest favourites of all time to beat Drumcondra in the 1943 FAI Cup final. It wasn't that Drumcondra were a poor team – far from it – but Cork United had just won the League of Ireland title for the third year in succession and, of 56 League games in those three years, they had lost only seven. They had won the Cup in 1941 and lost a great final to Dundalk in 1942, so they were expected to make amends against Drumcondra. "Cork United were 5–1 on to win," recalled Drums' wing-half Billy Mulville, "but we raised our game for that match." Led by centre-forward Tommy McNamara and known as 'McNamara's Band,' they confounded the critics to beat Cork 2–1 and take the Cup back to Tolka Park for the second time.

With the League of Ireland reduced to ten teams, the FAI introduced a two-leg system for first round matches and Drumcondra were drawn against non-League Distillery, the Intermediate Cup holders for the past four years. "Distillery should have been in the League of Ireland," said Mulville. "League teams hated to be drawn against them in the Cup." The two-leg system probably worked to Drumcondra's advantage as it took some of the pressure off them. At any rate, after a 1–1 first leg, they stormed into the second round with a 4–1 second leg win.

The second round tie away to Dundalk proved to be very eventful, especially for full-back Tommy O'Rourke. "I missed a penalty, gave away a penalty and scored a penalty in a 2–2 draw," he recalled. "I missed a penalty, hitting it wide off the post, when the score was 0–0; then I took down Joey Donnelly, who scored from the spot to make it

1–0. When the score was 2–1, Dundalk's goalie Gerry Matier planted Tommy McNamara who was chasing a ball that was going over the end line and I converted the penalty to earn us a replay." O'Rourke also scored from the spot in the replay when Dickey McGrane, who had been brought into the side, made his mark with a hat-trick. Billy Mulville also came into the side for the replay – at the expense of Fran O'Brien – and retained his place for the rest of the Cup campaign.

The only other second round tie resulted in a sensational win for re-election candidates Brideville away to Cup specialists Shamrock Rovers. Wearing white shirts which the players had bought by pooling their war-time clothing coupons, the hard-up Dublin club reaped a semi-final bonanza of two games against Cork United, which enabled it to pay off its debts.

While Cork United had disposed of Brideville by March 31, it took Drumcondra three games to get past Limerick – and all three games were played in April, proving ideal preparation for the final on April 18. One of the stumbling blocks as far as Drumcondra were concerned was a young Limerick centre-forward called David Walsh. A Waterfordman, he only had one season with the Shannonsiders before moving on to Linfield, where he won IFA Cup medals in 1945 and 1946, and was then transferred to West Bromwich Albion and later Aston Villa, winning international honours from both the FAI and the IFA. He came in the middle of a line of great Limerick centre-forwards, being preceded by Tommy Byrne, who moved on to Belfast Celtic, and being followed by Paddy O'Leary, who later moved to Cork United.

A sad postscript to Drumcondra's win – but a sign of the times – was Tommy O'Rourke's need shortly after to sell his Cup medal in order to raise the balance necessary for a deposit on a house when he was getting married.

FIRST ROUND

First Round ties played on a two-leg basis, aggregate scores decided winner.

February 7 1st Leg	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Smyth, Clarke		**JACOBS** ..... 1 Hollingsworth
February 14 2nd Leg	**JACOBS** ..... 3 Hollingsworth 2, Kirwan		**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 3 O'Hagan, Shields, Clarke

BRIDEVILLE won 5–4 on aggregate.

February 7 1st Leg	**CORK UNITED** ..... 1 N. Dunne		**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Bradshaw
February 14 2nd Leg	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Bradshaw		**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 O'Reilly, McCarthy

CORK UNITED won 3–2 on aggregate.

February 7 1st Leg	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 J. O'Mahony 2 (1 pen.)		**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0
February 13 2nd Leg	**BRAY UNKNOWNS** 0		**LIMERICK** ..... 2 D. Walsh, McLoughlin

LIMERICK won 4–0 on aggregate.

February 7 1st Leg	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 McGrane		**DISTILLERY** ..... 1 Molloy
February 14 2nd Leg	**DISTILLERY** ..... 1 Ward		**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 4 O'Rourke pen., McNamara 3

DRUMCONDRA won 5–2 on aggregate.

February 6 1st Leg	**BOHEMIANS** 0		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Coad, Grogan
February 14 2nd Leg	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0		**BOHEMIANS** 0

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 2–0 on aggregate.

February 7 1st Leg	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 3 Flanagan 2, Rogers		**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Doran, McDonald, Barlow
February 14 2nd Leg	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Doran, Donnelly		**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 2 Flanagan 2

DRAW: Aggregate Score 5–5.

FIRST ROUND PLAY-OFF

February 17	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Barlow, Lavery		**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 J. Matthews

SECOND ROUND

February 28	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Donnelly pen., Lavery		**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Shields, O'Rourke pen.
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Delaney		**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 T. Clarke, S. Smyth pen.

BYES: CORK UNITED and LIMERICK.

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 2	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 4 O'Rourke pen., McGrane 3		**DUNDALK** 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 28	CORK UNITED ..... 2 Madden, O'Driscoll	BRIDEVILLE ..... 2 Shields 2	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31	CORK UNITED ..... 2 O'Reilly, McCarthy	BRIDEVILLE 0	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 4	DRUMCONDRA 0	LIMERICK 0	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 7	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 O'Rourke pen., McNamara, McGrane	LIMERICK ..... 3 Walsh, McLoughlin, M. O'Mahony	

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 10	DRUMCONDRA ..... 4 Daly, Dyer 2, McNamara	LIMERICK ..... 2 McGlynn o.g., Walsh	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 18	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 McGrane (11m.), McNamara (61m.)	CORK UNITED ..... 1 O'Reilly (73m.)	

DRUMCONDRA: Ned Flynn, Tommy O'Rourke, Kevin Clarke, Billy Mulville, Fergie McGlynn, Jim O'Mara, Leo Ward, Paddy Daly, Tommy McNamara, Paddy Dyer, Dick McGrane.

Cork United: Kevin McAlinden, Billy Hayes, Paddy Duffy, Johnny McGowan, William Curtin, Connie Forde, Jack O'Reilly, Noel Dunne, Sean McCarthy, Owen Madden, Jackie O'Driscoll.

Attendance: 30,549 **Receipts:** £1,945/14/6.

CHAPTER 23

1944: Rovers Raise Their Game

THE ABILITY of Shamrock Rovers' teams to raise their game for Cup finals is well known and former Shelbourne full-back Johnny Olphert reckoned that Rovers' 3–2 win in the 1944 FAI Cup final was a classic case of the Milltown men raising their game. "We won everything bar the Cup that year," recalled Olphert. "We won the Shield and the League and we were a certainty in the final because we had beaten Rovers practically every time we played them that year." Mind you, a little thing called luck, which generally deserted Shelbourne in finals, also had a part to play, with Shelbourne wing-half Eddie Gannon scoring an own goal and centre-half Paddy Kinsella missing a penalty.

Olphert, however, preferred to be hard on himself: "In the final I never got a kick of the ball, other than kicking it out as goalkeeper Fred Kiernan wasn't too keen on kicking out himself. Rovers just took control and their right-winger Mickey Delaney, who used to play for us, had a blinder. I never got a tackle or anything on him. For the penalty the ball was in the net when Mattie Clarke got to it and threw it out. It was a goal but the referee gave us a penalty and Paddy Kinsella missed it."

The 1944 Cup campaign saw the two-leg system extended to semi-final matches also, as the loss of Brideville and Bray Unknowns had reduced the League of Ireland to eight teams. In addition, the Intermediate Cup had been suspended, so there were no non-League teams in the competition. Shamrock Rovers disposed of Cup holders Drumcondra comfortably in their semi-final, but Shelbourne had a little more trouble with Dundalk. "I used dread playing against

Dundalk," recalled Olphert. "To get over them was a great performance. I always had to play against Paddy Barlow and he and I used train together. He was the best corner-kicker I ever saw. He played for corner-kicks." Although Barlow scored in the second leg semi-final tie, Olphert had the last laugh as Shelbourne got through on a 4–2 aggregate.

Matt Doherty, Rovers' right-half, was a Derryman who had played in an IFA Cup final with Derry City in 1936 and returned to that club to win an IFA Cup medal in 1949.

Eddie Gannon may have had the misfortune to put through his own goal in the final but he went on to have a distinguished career. A graduate of Distillery, he joined Notts County after the war and then moved to Sheffield Wednesday before returning to Shelbourne in 1955. He won international and inter-League honours.

Paddy Coad, who was winning his first Cup medal after the disappointment of 1941 with Waterford, gave an interesting insight to the financial incentives offered to Shamrock Rovers' players: "We were never on more than a £5 bonus for a win in a Cup final. Normally it was £1 bonus in the first round unless the opposition was particularly stiff, then the bonus might be £2, with a further £2 for the second round and £3 and £4 for the semi-final."

FIRST ROUND

(All ties, except final, over two legs; aggregate scores decided winner.)

February 26	**BOHEMIANS** 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 4
1st Leg	M. O'Flanagan, Kelly	McGrane, Daly, O'Rourke, Ward
March 5	**DRUMCONDRA** 1	**BOHEMIANS** 1
2nd Leg	McNamara	K. O'Flanagan

DRUMCONDRA won 5–3 on aggregate.

February 27	**DUNDALK** 5	**CORK UNITED** 1
1st Leg	Flanagan 3, Lavery, Barlow	McCarthy
March 5	**CORK UNITED** 1	**DUNDALK** 0
2nd Leg	McCarthy	

DUNDALK won 5–2 on aggregate.

February 27	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 5	**LIMERICK** 1
1st Leg	Eglington 2, Crowe, Coad 2	McKenna
March 5	**LIMERICK** 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 2
2nd Leg	Darcy, Cronin	Coad, Crowe

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 7–3 on aggregate.

February 27	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 1	**SHELBOURNE** 3
1st Leg	McAllister	McCluskey, Fallon 2
March 4	**SHELBOURNE** 3	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** 1
2nd Leg	Walsh, Cassidy, Fallon	Matthews

SHELBOURNE won 6–2 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 25	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
1st Leg	Eglington, Coad	
April 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 5
2nd Leg	McNamara, Ward	Coad 2, Rogers 3

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 7–2 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 26	**DUNDALK** 1	**SHELBOURNE** 1
1st Leg	D. Flanagan	Cassidy
April 1	**SHELBOURNE** 3	**DUNDALK** 1
2nd Leg	Walsh 2, McCluskey	Barlow

SHELBOURNE won 4–2 on aggregate.

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 16	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 3	**SHELBOURNE** 2
	Rogers (8m.), Gannon o.g. (19m.), Crowe (40m.)	Fallon (18m.), McCluskey (80m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Larry Palmer, Joe Nolan, Mattie Clarke, Matt Doherty, Charlie Byrne, Peter Farrell, Mickey Delaney, Paddy Coad, Liam Crowe, Bobby Rogers, Tommy Eglington.

Shelbourne: Fred Kiernan, Arthur Whelan, Johnny Olphert, Eddie Gannon, Paddy Kinsella, Charlie Mullally, Billy Kennedy, Joe 'Barreler' Cassidy, Mick McCluskey, Sid Walsh, Willie Fallon.

Attendance: 34,000 **Receipts: £2,048.**

Shamrock Rovers 1944, lined up in team formation. From left, forward line: Eddie Dunn, Mickey Delaney, Paddy Coad, Bobby Rogers, Tommy Eglington. Half-back line: Liam Crowe, Charlie Byrne, Peter Farrell. Full-backs: Joe Nolan, Mattie Clarke. Goalkeeper: Larry Palmer. Trainer Joe Byrne is on left, with coach Bob Fullam on right. Matt Doherty was missing.

CHAPTER 24

1945: Gregg Hits a Winner

IT SOUNDS like a trick question but it isn't: which team lost two FAI Cup ties and still won the Cup? The answer is Shamrock Rovers and the year in question was 1945. At the time only eight teams competed so first round ties and semi-finals were two-leg affairs. In their first round, first leg tie, Rovers lost 3–2 to Limerick at Milltown, recovering to win the second leg at the Market's Field 3–1. The semi-final was a more dramatic affair, with Dundalk winning the first leg 3–0 and Rovers overcoming that deficit with a 5–0 second leg win, helped by a penalty and an own goal. Rovers' feat of two defeats en route to a Cup win was repeated by Drumcondra in 1946.

Bohemians were confident going into the final for, although they had finished bottom of the League, they had disposed of champions Cork United in the semi-final and their team was laced with talent which made a mockery of their lowly rating. Four of their players – Peter Molloy, Pat Waters, Kevin O'Flanagan and Noel Kelly – were destined to experience English League football after the War. The all-Dublin pairing of Cup holders Rovers and Cup fighters Bohemians attracted a record attendance of 41,238 to Dalymount Park.

Dr. Kevin O'Flanagan was captain of Bohemians and the star performer during their Cup run, with three goals in the five games to the final. However, Rovers won 1–0 and O'Flanagan recalled: "I was very disappointed and especially at having played so badly myself. I couldn't understand why I played so badly but when I got home that night I discovered I had a temperature of 103 and that explained it – I was coming down with 'flu." Kevin's disappointment is understandable when one considers that, shortly after, Bohemians won the

Inter-City Cup, the unofficial All-Ireland title, beating the great Belfast Celtic 1–0 in the final. Kevin missed Bohemians' 1947 Cup final defeat as he was practising in London at the time.

Podge Gregg was Rovers' hero, scoring the winning goal late in the game when he finished Mickey Delaney's cross to the net. The big Ringsend centre-forward was in his second spell with Rovers, having spent the 1943-44 season with Glentoran, where he enjoyed success in the Gold Cup and the Inter-City Cup. He was also chosen for the North Regional League and scored twice against the League of Ireland in a 4–3 win on St. Patrick's Day, 1944, in Dublin. When he was suspended by the Glens early in 1945 for not training, Rovers stepped in and asked him to sign in time for the Cup. "I would have played for Rovers for nothing," he recalled, "so I took a big cut in wages – £3 a week and a £1 a point instead of £9 a week with Glentoran – and signed in February, so that I was only getting match fit when the Cup started in March."

For the first round tie against Limerick, the Cunninghams dropped one of their occasional bombshells when they dropped left-winger Tommy Eglington and replaced him with Larry White. Coach Bob Fullam protested but to no avail. Rovers were fortunate to escape with a one-goal deficit. The following week, with Gregg getting fitter and notching two goals, Rovers ran in three goals before Limerick replied. Gregg was again the hero in the semi-final second leg, when his hat-trick wiped out Dundalk's first leg lead.

Eglington survived the Cunninghams' poor opinion of him to become one of Rovers' star exports, moving to Everton in 1946 with wing-half Peter Farrell. He enjoyed a long and happy innings at Goodison Park before moving to Tranmere Rovers and then back home to Cork Hibernians, with whom he played in the 1963 Cup final. He was capped twenty-four times by the Republic of Ireland.

FIRST ROUND

(All ties, except final, over two legs; aggregate scores decided winner.)

March 3 1st Leg	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Hill, Thomas	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 M. O'Flanagan, Burns
March 11 2nd Leg	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 Murtagh o.g., Glennon pen., K. O'Flanagan, Burns	**SHELBOURNE** 0

BOHEMIANS won 6–2 on aggregate.

March 4 1st Leg	**DRUMCONDRA** 0	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 McCarthy, Madden

March 11 2nd Leg	**CORK UNITED** ..... 5 McCarthy 2, Moroney, Madden 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

CORK UNITED won 7–0 on aggregate.

March 4 1st Leg	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Flanagan 2	**BRIDEVILLE** 0
March 10 2nd Leg	**BRIDEVILLE** ..... 2 Smyth, Shields	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Fallon

DUNDALK won 3–2 on aggregate.

March 4 1st Leg	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Coad 2	**LIMERICK** ..... 3 P. O'Leary, Dunne pen., Healy
March 11 2nd Leg	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Dunne	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Gregg 2, Coad

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 5–4 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31 1st Leg	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Flanagan 2 (1 pen.), Fallon
April 8 2nd Leg	**DUNDALK** 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 5 Coad pen., Gregg 3, Matthews o.g.

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 5–3 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 1 1st Leg	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Glennon 2 (1 pen.)	**CORK UNITED** ..... 1 McCarthy

MARDYKE, CORK

April 8 2nd Leg	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 Madden, Moroney	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 K. O'Flanagan

DRAW: Aggregate Score 3–3.

SEMI-FINAL PLAY-OFF: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 11	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Waters, K. O'Flanagan	**CORK UNITED** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Gregg (55m.)	**BOHEMIANS** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Larry Palmer, Mattie Clarke, Jackie Coyle, Matt Doherty, Charlie Byrne, Peter Farrell, Mickey Delaney, Paddy Coad, Podge Gregg, Bobby Rogers, Tommy Eglington.

Bohemians: Jimmy Collins, Frank Glennon, Billy Richardson, Ossie Nash, Peter Molloy, Pat Waters, Kevin O'Flanagan, Noel Kelly, Mattie Burns, Frank Morris, Mick O'Flanagan.

Attendance: 41,238 *(All-time Record).* **Receipts: £2,441.**

CHAPTER 25

1946: Untried 'Robin' Stars

JOSEPH 'ROBIN' LAWLOR set something of a precedent in 1946 when he won a Cup medal with Drumcondra – without ever playing a League of Ireland game for the club. Cup final day was a good one for the Lawlor family, with brother Jimmy also on the victorious Drumcondra team, the first time for brothers to win Cup medals on the same day since Joe and Christy Robinson (Bohemians) in 1928.

Robin Lawlor was playing Leinster League football with Transport when manager Matt Giles answered his brother Dicky's cry for help. Dicky was assistant manager to Jock McCosh at Drumcondra and, having reached the Cup semi-final, their plans were upset when wing-half and captain Billy Mulville suffered a bad ankle injury. Lawlor, an amateur, was transferred to Drums but Matt Giles, thinking of the player's future, got the League of Ireland club to sign an agreement stating that they had no power of retention over their new signing.

This proviso proved crucial after Lawlor distinguished himself in the Cup semi-final play-off against Shelbourne and the final against Shamrock Rovers, which Drums won 2–1. Following his appearance in an Inter-City Cup tie shortly after, the scouts were on his trail and Drumcondra were prepared to do a deal.

Everton manager Theo Kelly travelled over to Tolka Park and agreed a fee for Lawlor only to find that Drums had no right to sell him. Belfast Celtic had already nipped in and clinched a deal with the player himself – a deal which was more lucrative to the player with no transfer fee to be negotiated and no limit to the signing-on fee allowed.

Lawlor, who was 20, had three great seasons with Belfast Celtic, winning an IFA Cup medal in 1947 when the opposition was provided by Glentoran – and included brother Jimmy who, along with centre-forward Tommy McCormack and Rovers' inside-forward Noel Kelly, had been transferred to the Oval around the same time Robin went to Celtic. For Kelly, who later moved to Arsenal, the 1947 final was third time unlucky in successive Cup finals – and each with a different club: Bohemians (1945), Shamrock Rovers (1946) and Glentoran (1947). In each case defeat was by a one-goal margin.

A classy player, who read the game well, Robin Lawlor also had a long throw-in and it was one of his throws which led to the second Celtic goal in their famous 2–0 win over the Scotland team during the club's farewell North American tour in 1949. Lawlor was transferred to Fulham when Celtic went out of football and won eight Republic of Ireland caps at left-back.

Another Drumcondra player who had reason to be grateful to Matt Giles was left-back Joe Barnwell, who had been playing in St. James's Gate's reserves when Giles took him to Distillery where he won Intermediate Cup medals before signing for Drums for what proved to be a fruitful autumn of his career. Drumcondra proved that football had a heart when they struck a special medal for the man who missed the final, their captain Billy Mulville.

Schoolboy team Munster Victoria, who were the great rivals of Home Farm in those days, had no less than seven 'past pupils' playing on Cup final day – Peter Keogh, Con Martin and the two Lawlors with Drumcondra, Kelly, Charlie Byrne and Tommy Eglington with Rovers.

FIRST ROUND

(All ties, except final, over two legs; aggregate scores decided winner.)

March 2	**SHELBOURNE** 3	**LIMERICK** 3
1st Leg	Kinsella, Malone 2 (1 pen.),	Byrne 3
March 10	**LIMERICK** 0	**SHELBOURNE** 3
2nd Leg		Keely, Malone, Crowe
	SHELBOURNE won 6–3 on aggregate.	
March 3	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**CORK UNITED** 1
1st Leg		O'Leary
March 10	**CORK UNITED** 0	**BOHEMIANS** 0
2nd Leg		
	CORK UNITED won 1–0 on aggregate.	

March 3 1st Leg	WATERFORD ..... 3 Cronin 2, McCann	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Daly, Henderson
March 9 2nd Leg	DRUMCONDRA ..... 6 McCormack 3, Ward, Henderson 2	WATERFORD 0

DRUMCONDRA won 8–3 on aggregate.

March 3 1st Leg	DUNDALK ..... 2 Dykes, Fallon	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Delaney, Coad pen.
March 10 2nd Leg	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Coad	DUNDALK 0

SHAMROCK ROVERS won 3–2 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE, CORK

March 31 1st Leg	CORK UNITED ..... 2 Hayes pen., Noonan	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0

DALYMOUNT PARK

April 7 2nd Leg	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Delaney 2, Eglington, Coad pen.	CORK UNITED ..... 2 O'Leary, Noonan

DRAW: Aggregate Score 4–4.

DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31 1st Leg	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Crowe, McCormack	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 McCormack
April 7 2nd Leg	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 McCormack pen.	SHELBOURNE 0

DRAW: Aggregate Score 2–2.

SEMI-FINAL PLAY-OFFS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 10	DRUMCONDRA ..... 4 McCormack 3 (1 pen.), Ward	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 McGowan
April 12	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Coad, Eglington, Delaney, Cochrane	CORK UNITED ..... 1 Madden

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 McCormack (12m.), Henderson (85m.)	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Coad (1m.)

Drumcondra: Peter Keogh, Con Martin, Joe Barnwell, Joseph 'Robin' Lawlor, Kevin Clarke, Jim O'Mara, Benny 'Rosie' Henderson, Dermot Delaney, Tommy McCormack, Jimmy Lawlor, Leo Ward.

Shamrock Rovers: Jimmy Collins, Mattie Clarke, Frank Glennon, Noel Kelly, Charlie Byrne, Peter Farrell, Davy Cochrane, Paddy Coad, Mickey Delaney, Jimmy McAlinden, Tommy Eglington.

Attendance: 34,248 **Receipts: £2,856/7/6.**

CHAPTER 26

1947: Return of 'The King'

IN 1947 'The King' returned to Cork – and Cork United won the FAI Cup. Sean McCarthy, known as 'The King' in Cork for his goalscoring exploits, had spent the 1945–46 season helping Belfast Celtic win the Irish League title, but his return to his native Cork helped United field what must have been one of the most exciting forward lines ever in League of Ireland football – wingers Jackie O'Driscoll and Owen Madden, inside-forwards McCarthy and Tommy Moroney, and centre-forward Paddy O'Leary. Even in that array of forward talent, it was McCarthy who stood out and it was his goals which were the difference between winning and losing the Cup.

McCarthy was nineteen when he first came to the fore with the Cork United team which won the double of League and Cup in 1940–41, and he helped United to three more League titles before he left for Belfast Celtic. The season before he left, he hit an astonishing twenty-six goals in just fourteen League games – practically two goals a game! While with Celtic his talent was recognised by the international selectors and he played in a Victory international against England, doing well against Neil Franklin, even though England won 1–0. His return to Cork lasted only one season, he then left for England and played for Dartford in the Southern League before being snapped up by Bristol City where, he admitted: "I didn't make a big impression because I was losing interest at that time."

A modest, unassuming man, McCarthy was among a band of players whose best years coincided with the war, and whose international opportunities were limited. He spent thirteen seasons as a full-time professional and, after his sojourn with Bristol City, retur-

Cork United, 1947. From left, back row: Jackie O'Reilly, Tommy Moroney, Sean McCarthy, Jimmy "Fox" Foley, Dave Noonan, Johnny McGowan. Front row: Jackie O'Driscoll, Owen Madden, Florrie Burke, Small Seanie McCarthy, Paddy O'Leary. Missing — Paddy Noonan.

ned to Cork and helped Evergreen United reach the Cup final in 1953. For all his talent, McCarthy was a bundle of nerves before the 1947 final replay, as he admitted to Bohemians' full-back Billy Richardson. However, it didn't stop him scoring the all-important opening goal to set up United's victory.

Bohemians had their problems when both first choice full-backs, Richardson and Noel Snell, failed fitness tests for the final. Richardson, who played in the replay, damaged an achilles tendon in training; while Snell twisted his ankle in a Cup final rehearsal League game in the Mardyke the week before. One problem they had sorted out, though, concerned centre-forward Michael O'Flanagan. Earlier in the season he had been turning out only when it suited him but, following a protest by the other players prior to the Leinster Cup semi-final tie against Drumcondra, he agreed to make himself available every week. Bohemians quickly benefited from the healing of the split, winning the Leinster Cup with a record 11–0 win over Grangegorman, to which O'Flanagan contributed six goals.

O'Flanagan was an international in rugby as well as soccer, and Cork United had, in Tommy Moroney, someone equally talented in both codes. However, following the Cup final, Moroney was transferred to West Ham United where he had six good years before returning to Cork as player-manager of Evergreen United.

Cork United's team was unique in that it was the first, and so far the only, all-Cork team to win the FAI Cup. The unlucky man in the squad was a namesake of 'The King', Sean McCarthy, known as 'Small Seanie'. The most versatile player in the team but the only one not to get representative honours, he missed the final due to a cartilage operation and Paddy Noonan took his place. A medal was struck for 'Small Seanie' and he later won one in his own right in 1953 with Cork Athletic.

FIRST ROUND

(All ties, except final, over two legs; aggregate scores decided winner.)

February 15	**SHELBOURNE** 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 1
1st Leg		Coad
March 12	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0	**SHELBOURNE** 1
2nd Leg		Hanson
	DRAW: Aggregate Score 1–1.	
February 16	**BOHEMIANS** 3	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
1st Leg	M. O'Flanagan 2, O'Kelly	

March 5 2nd Leg	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 McConkey 2		**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Kirby	

BOHEMIANS won 4–2 on aggregate.

February 16 1st Leg	**CORK UNITED** ..... 9 Madden 3 (1 pen.), Moroney 3 S. McCarthy 2, O'Leary		**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Cronin	
February 23 2nd Leg	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Sergeant		**CORK UNITED** ..... 1 S. McCarthy	

CORK UNITED won 10–2 on aggregate.

February 16 1st Leg	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 J. Kelly pen.		**LIMERICK** 0	
March 13 2nd Leg	**LIMERICK** ..... 3 Murphy 2, Venner		**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Matthews	

LIMERICK won 3–2 on aggregate.

FIRST ROUND PLAY-OFFS

March 13	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Brennan, Hanson 2, Malone, Peelo		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Coad 2	

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE

March 23 1st Leg	**CORK UNITED** ..... 1 O'Leary		**LIMERICK** 0	

DALYMOUNT PARK

March 30 2nd Leg	**LIMERICK** ..... 3 Murphy 2, Hartery		**CORK UNITED** ..... 3 S. McCarthy 2, O'Leary	

CORK UNITED won 4–3 on aggregate.

DALYMOUNT PARK

March 23 1st Leg	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 M. O'Flanagan, Kirby, Morris		**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Malone 2	
March 29 2nd Leg	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Hanson 2, Malone		**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 M. O'Flanagan, Halpin pen., O'Kelly	

BOHEMIANS won 6–5 on aggregate.

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 Denning o.g. (12m.), McCarthy (29m.)		**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 M. O'Flanagan (37m.), Halpin pen. (70m.)	

Cork United: Jimmy 'Fox' Foley, Johnny McGowan, Dave Noonan, Jack O'Reilly, Florrie Burke, Paddy Noonan, Jackie O'Driscoll, Sean McCarthy, Paddy O'Leary, Tommy Moroney, Owen Madden.

Bohemians: Leo Denning, Billy Cleary, Eddie Eccles, Danny Cameron, Shay Nolan, Tommy Halpin, Bobby Smith, Frank Morris, Mick O'Flanagan, Brendan O'Kelly, Eugene Kirby.

Attendance: 20,198 **Receipts: £2,390/11/0.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 24	**CORK UNITED** ..... 2 McCarthy (24m.), Moroney (45m.)		**BOHEMIANS** 0	

Cork United: Unchanged. **Bohemians:** Billy Richardson for Cleary.

Attendance: 5,519 Receipts: £548/8/0.

CHAPTER 27

1948: Rosie, Oh Rosie!

BENNY HENDERSON played in four FAI Cup finals and on the first three occasions, Jimmy Collins was the opposing goalkeeper. The record books show that Benny came out on top, winning in 1946 and 1954, and losing in 1948, but the strange thing is that each final was decided in a different way – 1946 by a goal that shouldn't have been, 1948 by a penalty that was missed, and 1954 by an own goal!

Henderson was the central figure in the dramatic moments of the 1946 and 1948 Cup finals. "I take no laurels for the goal that won the Cup in 1946 – it was the goalkeeper's fault. He was trying to be too stylish," said the Drums favourite about the winner, which he scored from an impossible angle. Still, it's nice to win a Cup medal in your first season of senior football and at the celebration party later in Hollybank Road, Benny obliged with the popular tune 'Rosie O'Grady' – and was ever after stuck with the nickname 'Rosie'.

Outside right in 1946, Henderson was outside-left in 1948 – a tribute to his skill with either foot. He scored in his second final also, but this time it was a cracker, struck perfectly when the ball fell to him on the edge of the penalty area.

However, with Rovers leading 2–1 and just two minutes to go, fate intervened to add another chapter to the Henderson–Collins saga. Stand-in centre-half Bobby Rogers handled and Drums were awarded a penalty. Henderson was deputed to take it. "I had a long run up to it and should have smacked it but I tried to be neat and place it and Collins made a great save," he recalled. "It came back out to me but I was so disgusted I didn't follow up. If I had I could

have buried it. I didn't drink at the time but I went missing for a couple of days after. I was so disgusted, it had an awful effect on me."

Drumcondra, who were going for the double, having finished the season as League champions, faced a Rovers' team seething with discontent at a decision of club boss, Joe Cunningham. With six weeks of the season lost due to the bad winter of 1947, Cunningham brought forward Rovers' first round Inter-City Cup tie to the Wednesday before the Cup final. It was almost a costly decision for centre-half Charlie Byrne was injured and forward Bobby Rogers had to drop back for the final.

However, it was on the question of pay that Cunningham dropped his bombshell. He paid no match fee for the Inter-City Cup tie, only the win bonus. "Both games were outside our contract time but there was a verbal agreement that we got paid for every game we played out of season," recalled Podge Gregg. For the next round of the Inter-City Cup some of the disenchanted players made themselves unavailable and Rovers were eliminated.

The players in dispute left Rovers the following season, with Rogers and Gregg joining ambitious Leinster League side Saint Patrick's Athletic. They had the last laugh, too, when Pat's knocked Rovers out of the Cup in 1949 – with goals by Rogers and Gregg!

Unlucky man in 1948 was regular Shamrock Rovers' goalkeeper, Tommy Godwin. He broke a bone in his leg in the record 8–2 semi-final win over Saint Patrick's Athletic but it wasn't discovered until after the game. Jimmy Collins, who took his place, also filled in on the League of Ireland teams against the English and Scottish Leagues. Just over a year later, Godwin won the first of his thirteen international caps and towards the end of 1949 he was transferred to Leicester City.

FIRST ROUND

February 8	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 1 Forde	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 4 Cassidy 2, McDonald, McCormack
February 14	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Malone 2, Peelo, Durkan o.g., Carroll	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 P. Walsh
February 15	**CORK UNITED** ..... 5 S. McCarthy 5	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Colfer
	LIMERICK ..... 1 O'Grady	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 3 Lawlor 2, Delaney

	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Gregg 2, Coad	BOHEMIANS 0	
	WATERFORD ..... 3 Manning, A. Curtin 2	TRANSPORT ..... 1 Lester	

SECOND ROUND

February 28	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Gregg 2	WATERFORD ..... 1 A. Curtin pen.
February 29	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Lawlor	SHELBOURNE 0

BYES: CORK UNITED and ST. PATRICK'S ATHLETIC.

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE, CORK

March 21	CORK UNITED ..... 1 Drummond	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Delaney

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 21	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 8 Gregg 4, Coad 2, Glennon, Kirby	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Shields, McCormack

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 24	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 McConkey 2	CORK UNITED 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 11	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Coad (45m.), Kirby (75m.)	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Henderson (18m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Jimmy Collins, Mattie Clarke, Jackie Coyle, Ossie Nash, Bobby Rogers, Tommy Dunne, Frank Glennon, Paddy Coad, Podge Gregg, Des Treacy, Eugene Kirby.

Drumcondra: Peter Keogh, Johnny Robinson, Joe Barnwell, Tommy Kinsella, Kevin Clarke, Billy Mulville, Christy Giles, John 'Kit' Lawlor, Dermot Delaney, Paddy Daly, Benny 'Rosie' Henderson.

Attendance: 33,812 **Receipts:** £3,615.

CHAPTER 28

Johny Matthews.

1949: Captain's Reward - A Move

SUNDAY, 10 April 1949, started just like any other day for Nicholas 'Johnny' Matthews, captain of Dundalk. He had to report for work at the Urney factory in Tallaght to supervise the installation of air-conditioning, work which couldn't be done during the week when production was in full swing. Shortly after one o'clock he finished work in a lather of sweat, made his way home for a lunch of poached egg and toast, had a quick shower and was still tieing his shoelaces as his brother drove him to Dalymount Park where he was due to lead out his club in the FAI Cup final against Shelbourne.

In sharp contrast to Matthews' hurried preparations, the Shelbourne team arrived at Dalymount in a fleet of limousines headed by a brass band. "I remember Peter Keely waving to me from the back of one of the limousines as I walked across the road from Saint Peter's Church," recalled Matthews. It was a nice piece of one-upmanship on the part of Shelbourne, whose young, exciting attack, which included Middlesboro-bound Arthur Fitzsimons and Peter Desmond, made them favourites.

Busy and all as he had been that morning, there was more work for Matthews to do before he got to kick a ball. Some of the Dundalk players had taken note of the crowd at the game and were unhappy with the £8 bonus they were to receive if they won. "They wanted £10 and gave me an ultimatum that they wouldn't tog out if they didn't get it," said Matthews. "I went in to the directors and, with extreme reluctance, they gave in. They said it was costing them money being in the Cup final!"

When the game got under way, Matthews and his teammates found

themselves under great pressure and Shelbourne missed a lot of chances. Gradually, however, Dundalk got on top and goals from Jackie Walsh and Scotsman Ronnie Henderson made it 2–0 at half-time, with Jackie Walsh adding another in the second period. So it was a proud and very tired Johnny Matthews who accepted the Cup on Dundalk's behalf.

Shortly after, Dundalk qualified for the Inter-City Cup final but lost to Shamrock Rovers. It had been a tremendous season for the border club, so captain Matthews got a bit of a shock when he was told, after the Rovers game, that he was being put on the transfer list.

While some of the odium of the players' Cup final ultimatum may have stuck to him, there was another factor in the directors' dissatisfaction with Matthews – he had earlier turned down a lucrative move to West Ham United! "Sam Prole wasn't too pleased when I didn't go to West Ham," recalled Matthews. "He offered me £650 and expenses but I had just moved into a new house and didn't consider football a secure livelihood. The fee was in the region of £9,000 and would have been a League of Ireland record. Three weeks after, West Ham signed Frank O'Farrell from Cork United."

Matthews, who was captain of the League of Ireland team as well as Dundalk, was finally snapped up by Ards who later transferred him to Glenavon for an Irish League record fee of £1,750. He captained Glenavon when they made history by becoming the first provincial club to win the Irish League title in 1951–52, and he also captained the Irish League on numerous occasions until he returned to League of Ireland football in 1954 with Transport.

FIRST ROUND

February 19	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Mullen	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Cassidy
February 20	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Lawlor, Henderson	**LIMERICK** 0
	DUNDALK ..... 4 McElhinney, Henderson 2, Hamilton	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Curtin
	FREEBOOTERS 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Malone, Carroll 2
	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lester pen., Kearns	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 4 Murray, Curtin 2 (1 pen.), E. Noonan	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Rooney

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 23	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Gregg, Rogers	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Higgins

SECOND ROUND

March 5	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Cranley
March 9	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 4 Henderson 2, Glynn, Lawlor	**TRANSPORT** 0

BYES: DUNDALK and WATERFORD.

SEMI-FINAL: MILLTOWN

March 26	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Ward, Glynn	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 J. Walsh, Henderson

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 27	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Keely, Cranley, Carroll	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 E. Noonan

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 30	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Hamilton, Henderson	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Kinsella

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 10	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 J. Walsh 2 (20m., 68m.), Henderson (41m.)	**SHELBOURNE** 0

Dundalk: Alex Anderson, John Fearon, John Maguire, Philip Murphy, Michael Skivington, Nicholas 'Johnny' Matthews, Peadar Walsh, Danny McElhinney, Ronnie Henderson, Eamonn Hamilton, Jackie Walsh.

Shelbourne: Norman Tapkin, John Murphy, Sean Haughey, Dickey Rooney, Shay Nolan, Peter Keely, Martin Colfer, Arthur Fitzsimons, Brendan Carroll, Peter Desmond, Gerry Malone.

Attendance: 28,539 **Receipts: £3,159/10/6.**

Transport 1950. From left, back row: Stephen Murray (trainer), Jim Loughran, John Kennedy, Paddy Carroll, Paddy Gibney, Mick Collins, Matt Giles (manager). Front row: Bobby Smith, Paddy Doyle, John Meighan (capt.), Jimmy Duggan, Bernie Lester, Larry Kearns.

CHAPTER 29

1950: Triumph for Matt Giles

THE FAI CUP has twice been won by teams managed by members of the famous Giles family. However, while Johnny Giles' triumph with Shamrock Rovers in 1978 comes readily to mind, not so well known is his Uncle Matt's achievement with Transport in 1950. Due to a bad leg injury, suffered in childhood, Matt was unable to follow his brother Dickie (Johnny's father) as a footballer, settling instead for a career as a mentor. While Dickie enjoyed some success as a footballer with Dolphin in the 1930s, Matt had to be content with a role on the sidelines but he proved to be an astute assessor of football talent. Dickie became coach to Distillery, regarded by many as the greatest non-League team ever seen, and later moved to Drumcondra as assistant manager to Jock McCosh, enjoying Cup success in 1946. By then, however, Matt had found a niche of his own – with Leinster League club Transport.

"I joined Transport in 1945 on condition they got me a job – which they did," recalled Matt."They were in the Leinster League, Division II, and we won it that year. Two years later, in 1947–48, we were runners-up in the Leinster League to Saint Patrick's Athletic and got to the final of the Leinster Senior Cup, which Pats won 3–1 in a second replay."

Transport, who had a strong base within the national bus company, CIE, were a go ahead outfit. Playing out of Bray, the club officials practically re-built the Carlisle Grounds pitch with their own voluntary labour to bring it up to an acceptable standard. Their hard work was rewarded when they applied for League of Ireland membership in 1948 – and got it ahead of their Leinster League and

Leinster Cup conquerors, Saint Patrick's Athletic. In only their second year of League membership, Transport won the FAI Cup after a three-game final marathon with Cork Athletic which caught the imagination of the public. Remarkably, the two teams were paired in the first round in each of the following two seasons – and it took three games to separate them on each occasion but with the honours going to Cork both times.

Matt Giles reckons it was Transport's professional approach which won them the Cup in 1950. At the suggestion of club chairman, Willie Murphy, who lived in Bray, the team had full-time training from the week before the final, with various local concerns helping out. "We had lunch every day in the International Hotel after training, and on Friday we played golf at the invitation of Bray Golf Club," recalled Matt. "It was originally intended for one week but it went on for two-and-a-half weeks because of the two replays. Of course, we had to get the players off work and pay them for lost time but our full-time training paid off in the last game when we were very much on top."

Of all the goals scored in the final, the most remarkable was that which Jim Loughran scored seconds from the end of the first replay. With his back to goal and thirty-five yards out, he hit the ball over his head, up into the air and it dropped like a stone over goalkeeper Tom Healy's head into the net. When you score goals like that you are justified in thinking your name is on the Cup!

Matt Giles quit Transport the following year but he had further tastes of Cup glory with Drumcondra in 1954 and 1957, having joined the Tolka Park club in 1953 as chief scout for manager Billy Behan.

FIRST ROUND

February 18	JACOBS 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Coad
February 19	AOH ..... 2 Madden, G. O'Sulivan	DUNDALK ..... 1 Murray
	ALBERT ROVERS ..... 2 O'Connell, Allen	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 2 Clarke, McDaid
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Glynn, Daly	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 3 O'Leary, Vaughan 2
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Neilan	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Healy, Kavanagh
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 Cassidy, Haughey o.g., Collins	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 B. Curtis

	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Waters 2, Kirwan o.g.	ST. JAMES'S GATE 0
	WATERFORD ..... 1 D. McCulloch	TRANSPORT ..... 1 P. Doyle

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 22	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lester, P. Doyle	WATERFORD 0
February 23	LONGFORD TOWN 0	ALBERT ROVERS 0

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAYS

March 1	ALBERT ROVERS ..... 2 Allen 2	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 Leavy

SECOND ROUND

March 11	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Kavanagh	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lester, Smith
March 12	AOH 0	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Donnelly
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Kirby	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 O'Reilly pen.
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Waters 2	ALBERT ROVERS 0

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 16	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 O'Leary, Lennox	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 O'Connor

SEMI-FINAL: MILLTOWN

April 1	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lester pen., Duggan	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Waters

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 2	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Comerford	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Broderick

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 5	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Cassidy 2	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Vaughan 2

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: MARDYKE, CORK

April 12	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 4 Vaughan, Cronin, Broderick, O'Leary	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Maher 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lester (55m.), Duggan (75m.)	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 O'Leary (4m.), Cronin (15m.)

Transport: Paddy Carroll, John 'Pip' Meighan, Jim Loughran, Paddy Gibney, Jimmy Woods, John Kennedy, Paddy Doyle, Larry Kearns, Jimmy Duggan, Barney Lester, Bobby Smith.

Cork Athletic: Tom Healy, Jack O'Reilly, Dave Noonan, George Warner, Florrie Burke, Frank Cantwell, Johnny Vaughan, Murty Broderick, Paddy O'Leary, Paddy Cronin, Jackie Lennox.

Attendance: 27,807 **Receipts: £3,208/11/0.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 26	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 Smith (82m.), Loughran (108m.)	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 2 O'Reilly pen. (25m.), Lennox (102m.)

Transport: Martin Doyle for Woods, Noel Doyle for P. Doyle. **Cork Athletic:** Danny O'Connell for Noonan.

Attendance: 21,123 **Receipts: £1,738/15/6.**

FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

May 5	**TRANSPORT** ..... 3 Lester 2 (21m., 50m.), Duggan (82m.)	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Vaughan (26m.)

Transport: Mick Collins for M. Doyle; Paddy Doyle for N. Doyle. **Cork Athletic:** Dave Noonan for O'Connell.

Attendance: Not available. **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 30

1951: Cork on the Double

NOWADAYS footballers are cosseted so that nothing distracts them for anything up to a week before a Cup final and, even for an ordinary Cup tie, a 24-hour guard is maintained to ensure that their concentration on the game is total. However, in the past, some teams found that a little bit of pre-match panic often got the adrenalin flowing and produced the right result on the pitch. In 1951, for instance, Cork Athletic had an extended first round tie with Transport, with the second replay fixed for Dalymount Park. The Cork train arrived in Dublin only twenty minutes before kick-off, yet the Athletic made light of their rushed preparations and recorded a convincing 3–0 win, with Jackie Lennox scoring two of the goals. Just to prove that panic stations motivated him, Lennox managed a repeat the following season. "I lived in Crosshaven and had a puncture on my way to Cork to link up with the team travelling to Dublin for the second round tie against Shamrock Rovers," he recalled. "When the train pulled out one of the directors waited for me and when I arrived he drove me to Mallow where the train had waited for us." The result of the game – Shamrock Rovers 1, Cork Athletic 2, with Lennox scoring the first goal and laying on the second for Paddy O'Leary.

Lennox was from Blackpool in England and, just before the war, he had played in Blackpool's A team with future England international Stan Mortenson. After the war, his family moved to Cork and Lennox played for Crosshaven before being signed by Cork Athletic, for whom he played in four Cup finals, winning twice.

A remarkable feature of Cork's Cup run in 1951 was their

Cork Athletic, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1950-51. From left, front row: P. O'Leary, F. Hennessy, F. Burke (captain), J. Vaughan, J. Lennox, W. O'Mahony. Back row: R. Cowell (secretary), P. O'Callaghan (chairman), P. O'Callaghan, D. Noonan, E. Courtney, P. Noonan, D. O'Connell, W. Cotter, T. Murphy (trainer), J. Lynch (director). Inset: P. Cronin.

appearance in Dalymount Park in each round of the competition. Their first round second replay with Transport was played there; a second round re-fixture with Limerick was also played there as, of course, were the semi-final and final. "In Limerick the home team's Joe Casey missed a penalty when we were 1–0 up," recalled wing-half Willie Cotter. "The English referee abandoned the game after seventy-seven minutes for fear of crowd trouble as the crowd had encroached on the greyhound track around the pitch. In the re-fixture in Dalymount we were lucky as Paddy O'Leary impeded the 'keeper for our equaliser, but we destroyed them in the Mardyke."

O'Leary and Shelbourne's Tommy Carberry were the stars of the Cup that year, each scoring in every round of the Cup and they obliged again in the final. O'Leary hit a cracking goal from a pass by Bobby McAlea, playing his first Cup tie at the expense of Frank Hennessy, and when Cork thought they had done enough Carberry punished them with an equaliser.

Full-back Dave Noonan chipped a bone in his ankle in the drawn game and a re-shuffle for the replay saw Cotter moving to left-full, Willie O'Mahony to left-half and Danny O'Connell coming in at right-half. Speedy winger Johnny Vaughan scored the only goal and Cork Athletic later went on to clinch the League title and thus emulated their predecessors Cork United, who had completed the double ten years previously.

FIRST ROUND

February 17	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Cassidy	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Glynn, Henderson
February 18	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Jordan, Dunne, Kavanagh	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 1 McNamara
	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Hennessy, O'Leary	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 Kirby, Gibney
	EVERGREEN ..... 1 O'Connell	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Bergin 2, Ambrose
	JACOBS ..... 1 Malone	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Martin, Ralph
	LIMERICK ..... 2 B. Neilan, J. Neilan	**AOH** ..... 1 G. O'Sullivan
	SHELBOURNE ..... 4 Carberry 2, Colfer, Walsh o.g.	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Greene
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 4 McDonagh, Isles, Jackson pen., Millar pen.	**ST. JAMES'S GATE** ..... 1 Menzies

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 21	TRANSPORT ..... 1 Donnelly	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Cronin	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 28	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 3 Lennox 2, Hennessy	TRANSPORT 0	

SECOND ROUND

March 10	BOHEMIANS 0	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Glynn, Daly	
March 11	LIMERICK 0	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Lennox	

(Match abandoned – Seventy-seven minutes – Crowd encroachment.)

SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 O'Callaghan	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Carberry 2	
SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Isles, Maguire	DUNDALK 0	

SECOND ROUND RE-FIXTURE: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 14	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Vaughan	LIMERICK ..... 1 Cunneen

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 21	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 6 O'Leary 3, Lennox, Vaughan, Cronin	LIMERICK 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Carberry	DRUMCONDRA 0
April 1	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 O'Leary 2	SLIGO ROVERS 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 O'Leary (33m.)	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Carberry (82m.)

Cork Athletic: Ned Courtney, Paddy Noonan, Dave Noonan, Willie O'Mahony, Florrie Burke, Willie Cotter, Johnny Vaughan, Paddy Cronin, Paddy O'Leary, Bobby McAlea, Jackie Lennox.

Shelbourne: Hugh Brien, Sean Haughey, Tommy Mulligan, Andy Fitzpatrick, Barney Curtis, Peter Keely, Paddy 'Hitler' Cunningham, George Lynam, Martin Colfer, Gerry Malone, Tommy Carberry.

Attendance: 38,912 **Receipts: £4,236/15/0.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 29	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Vaughan (45m.)	SHELBOURNE 0

Cork Athletic: Danny O'Connell for D. Noonan. Shelbourne: Unchanged.

Attendance: 22,010 **Receipts: £2,534/6/0.**

CHAPTER 31

1952
Law – and Booze – Beat Cork

THE LAW – and the booze – foiled Cork Athletic in their bid to win a second successive FAI Cup in 1952. They were beaten 3–0 by Dundalk in a replay but had been only minutes away from victory in the first game. Then goalkeeper Ned Courtney went down injured. While he was being treated the referee warned Cork about time-wasting so left-full Dave Noonan took the goalie's sweater and, in a re-shuffle, Courtney finished the game on the wing. With the defence disorganised, Dundalk centre-forward Joe Martin nipped in for an eighty-seventh minute equaliser.

Cork's preparations for the replay the following Wednesday were chaotic. The team stayed in Dublin overnight, returned home on Monday, 'cured' themselves on Tuesday and, according to Frank Johnstone in *The Irish Times*, "Cork, even in the pre-match kick-about, displayed none of Dundalk's sprightliness." In the words of Cork wing-half Johnny Moloney: "The replay was a farce – our fellows were still too drunk after Sunday." And Dundalk weren't slow to take advantage, with Johnny Fearon scoring within two minutes following a lovely dummy by Paddy Mullen.

The law also played havoc with Cork's preparations, for director Jimmy Lynch appeared in court on the Monday on an attempted murder charge and club officials and players were among those giving evidence. "I was involved as a witness," recalled winger Johnny Vaughan. "I had been offered a job by Jimmy Lynch on the night of the incident. He had a few drinks with us at home and then went on to his girl friend. After a disagreement he apparently tried to strangle her and left her for dead. I was in court both days before the

replay. The case was definitely a contributory factor in our defeat." With director Lynch on trial, Cork's morale for the replay must surely have been at a very low ebb.

Dundalk rode their luck to record their third Cup success. From the very first round, when they were drawn at home to League new-comers and runaway leaders, Saint Patrick's Athletic, it was apparent that Lady Luck was on their side. Dundalk had wiped out a 2–0 deficit when Pat's left-winger Jack Breen headed through. Goalkeeper Walter Durkan got his hands to it but couldn't hold the ball and it dropped over the line. As he stooped to pick it up he looked at the referee, who waved play on. Dundalk eventually won 3–2 but a photograph in the *Irish Independent* the following day clearly showed the ball was about two feet over the line when play was waved on!

Dundalk's semi-final replay against Waterford was also decided controversially in favour of the Border club. Played at Milltown, Dundalk were losing 3–1 but staged a great rally to equalise and bring the game to extra time. With the light fading, the referee ordered fifteen minutes each way instead of the statutory ten and Dundalk proved strongest, winning 6–4, with the final minutes being played with the aid of car headlights and the Milltown training lights.

Two of the Dundalk players were transferred to English clubs after the final. Left-full Tommy Traynor signed for Southampton where he had a long and illustrious career, while wing-half Paddy Gavin moved to Doncaster Rovers. Dundalk were the first Cup winners who had to apply for re-election to the League of Ireland, finishing second from the bottom of the table.

FIRST ROUND

February 16	**DRUMCONDRA** 0	**JACOBS** 0
February 17	**AER LINGUS** 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Hennessy 2, Burns
	AOH ..... 2 J. Murphy 2	**EVERGREEN** ..... 1 W. Moloney
	DUNDALK ..... 3 Mullen, Fearon, McDonagh	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Gibbons 2
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Malone	**BOHEMIANS** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 O'Connell	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 A. Neilan

	TRANSPORT ..... 1 Lester		CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Lennox	
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Nelson, D. Fitzgerald		PIKE ROVERS ..... 1 Meaney	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 20	CORK ATHLETIC 0		TRANSPORT 0	
	JACOBS ..... 1 Duffy pen.		DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 O'Toole 2	
February 21	LIMERICK 0		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Coll pen., Buggy	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 27	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Lyons, Reville		CORK ATHLETIC ..... 3 O'Mahony, O'Leary, Burke	

SECOND ROUND

March 1	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Burns		CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Lennox, O'Leary	
March 2	AOH 0		DUNDALK ..... 4 Fearon 2, Martin 2	
	SHELBOURNE ..... 3 Dwyer 2, Malone		WATERFORD ..... 3 D. Fitzgerald, Barry, T. Fitzgerald	
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 O'Connell, Buggy, Coll		DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Coffey pen.	

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 13	WATERFORD ..... 1 J. Fitzgerald		SHELBOURNE 0	

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 29	DUNDALK ..... 2 Fearon, Moloney		WATERFORD ..... 2 D. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald	
March 30	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 4 O'Leary 2, O'Sullivan, Lennox		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Buggy, Miller, Lipper	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: MILLTOWN

April 2	DUNDALK ..... 6 Moloney 2, McDonagh 2, Martin 2		WATERFORD ..... 4 McQuade 2 (1 pen.), Nelson, D. Fitzgerald	

(After extra time.)

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 O'Leary (50m.)		DUNDALK ..... 1 Martin (87m.)	

Cork Athletic: Ned Courtney, Paddy Noonan, Dave Noonan, Johnny Moloney, Florrie Burke, Willie Cotter, Johnny Vaughan, Murty Broderick, Paddy O'Leary, Paddy Cronin, Jackie Lennox.

Dundalk: Walter Durkan, Joe Ralph, Tommy Traynor, Paddy Gavin, Mattie Clarke, Jackie McCourt, Leo McDonagh, Johnny Fearon, Joe Martin, Paddy Mullen, Fergus Moloney.

Attendance: 26,479 **Receipts: £3,771/14/6.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	DUNDALK ..... 3 Fearon (2m.), Moloney (67m.), Mullen (83m.)		CORK ATHLETIC 0	

Dundalk: Unchanged. **Cork Athletic:** Jackie Waters for Courtney; Willie O'Mahoney for Broderick.

Attendance: 20,753 **Receipts: £2,205/6/0.**

CHAPTER 32

Raich Carter

1953: Raich Carter's Year

WHEN a rift developed between Hull City's chairman and the club's player-manager Raich Carter, the chairman had the last word, releasing Carter from his contract in January, 1953. Cork Athletic, displaying commendable initiative, offered Carter £50 a game plus expenses which, at that time, amounted to another £20. With the £20 ceiling on wages in England it was an attractive offer and Carter readily agreed to sign.

Carter, who was thirty-nine, had enjoyed a star-studded career, winning English Cup medals with Sunderland (1937) and Derby County (1946), and being capped in such illustrious company as Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney and Tommy Lawton. He was undoubtedly the biggest name to sign for an Irish club since 'Dixie' Dean's spell with Sligo Rovers in 1939.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing for Cork. After Drumcondra had been beaten by a Carter goal in the first round of the Cup the Tolka Park club objected on the grounds that Carter's signing didn't comply with the rule which stated that a player must be in residence in the Republic two weeks before the tie. It was argued that he had attempted to fly from Manchester on the necessary date but all planes were grounded due to weather conditions and he didn't arrive until the following day. The FAI overruled the objection.

The second round tie against Waterford made history when it was decided to make it the first all-ticket match with a 9,000 limit which included fans seated all around the touchline. Carter again proved the matchwinner with two goals in the 3–2 win, but Cork wing-half Johnny Moloney had another reason to remember the game: "The

crowd invaded the pitch when Paddy Noonan clobbered Denny Fitzgerald and I got three teeth knocked out by a spectator."

Cork winger Johnny Vaughan recalled the Carter year: "Raich Carter gave us a tremendous boost. It took two men to mark him all the time. Part of our training was me sprinting from the half-way line to the corner flag. The ball was played from Paddy O'Leary to Carter and he hit it to the corner flag. If I didn't get there in time you'd hear the roars from him all over the place."

The semi-final was the only game in which Carter failed to score, another Englishman, Jackie Lennox, getting the two goals which beat Limerick. History was made when Evergreen United qualified from the other semi-final to set up the first all-Cork final.

Of the twenty-two players in action in the final, twenty were from Cork. Two of the subs who came in for the replay were also from Cork. Cork Athletic goalkeeper Ned Courtney was from Dublin but had spent most of his life in Cork, while Lennox and Carter were from England. Another twist was supplied by Evergreen centre-half Florrie Burke, who was a retained player of Cork Athletic but was kept out of football for League games only. Cup rules were different so he was able to line out in the final against his own club!

Johnny and Willie Moloney made history when they became the first brothers to oppose each other in a Cup final. While Johnny had the last laugh, he had the toughest build-up as he was married and living in Evergreen territory!

In one of its many strange decisions, the FAI decided to play both the Cup final and replay in Dublin – and were rewarded with an absurdly low attendance of 6,000 for the replay in which Carter proved the matchwinner again in Cork Athletic's 2–1 victory. He thus became the first winner of FA and FAI Cup medals.

FIRST ROUND

February 8	**AOH** ..... 2 Dunlea, T. G. Murphy	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 2 P. Gilbert 2
February 14	**DRUMCONDRA** 0	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Carter
	JACOBS ..... 3 McEvoy, Ward, Keegan	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Clements
February 15	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Carrick, Hutchinson pen.	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 Collopy 2
	DUNDALK ..... 3 Martin, McDonagh, Fearon	**WATERFORD** ..... 3 J. Fitzgerald 2, Bergin

	EVERGREEN ..... 1 Venner		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Coad pen.	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Gibbons		SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Cunningham	
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Reddy, McDonagh 2		UCD ..... 3 Doris, Cassidy, Lenehan pen.	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 15	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 3 P. Gilbert 3		AOH 0	
February 18	UCD ..... 2 Lenehan, Cassidy		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Ward, Coll, O'Hara	
February 19	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Dwyer		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 Gibbons, Boland 2	
	LIMERICK ..... 3 Collopy 2 (1 pen.), Rochford		BOHEMIANS 0	
	WATERFORD ..... 2 T. Fitzgerald, G. Hale		DUNDALK ..... 2 Martin, McDonagh	
February 25	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Coad 2		EVERGREEN ..... 4 Venner 2, S. McCarthy, Giffney o.g.	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 26	WATERFORD ..... 2 McQuade, Bergin		DUNDALK ..... 1 Mullen	

SECOND ROUND

March 8	EVERGREEN ..... 1 Venner		JACOBS ..... 1 Duffy	
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Rochford		LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 P. Gilbert	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0		SLIGO ROVERS 0	
	WATERFORD ..... 2 McQuade pen., T. Fitzgerald		CORK ATHLETIC ..... 3 Carter 2, O'Leary	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 11	JACOBS 0		EVERGREEN ..... 1 S. McCarthy	
	SLIGO ROVERS 0		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Collins	
March 12	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 P. Gilbert		LIMERICK ..... 1 Bradley	

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 18	LIMERICK 0		LONGFORD TOWN 0	

(After extra time.)

SECOND ROUND THIRD REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 19	LIMERICK ..... 2 Bradley, Collopy		LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 Collins	

(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 28	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Lennox 2		LIMERICK ..... 1 Collopy	
March 29	EVERGREEN ..... 1 O'Neill		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 26	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Carter (37m.), D. Noonan (86m.)		EVERGREEN ..... 2 Venner (55m.), O'Neill (69m.)	

Cork Athletic: Ned Courtney, 'Small' Seanie McCarthy, Dave Noonan, Johnny Moloney, Paddy O'Callaghan, Georgie McGrath, Johnny Vaughan, Murty Broderick, Paddy O'Leary, Raich Carter, Willie Cotter.

Evergreen United: Derry Barrett, Peter Doolin, Mick Taylor, Seamus Madden, Florrie Burke, Jerry 'Bonty' Lynch, Willie Moloney, Eddie Doran, Sean McCarthy, Liam O'Neill, Billy Venner.

Attendance: 17,396 **Receipts: £2,617.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 29	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 Lennox (17m.), Carter (54m.),		EVERGREEN ..... 1 O'Neill (74m.)	

Cork Athletic: John Coughlan for O'Callaghan; Jackie Lennox for Cotter. **Evergreen United:** Nicky Hayes for Taylor.

Attendance: 6,000 **Receipts: £807.**

CHAPTER 33

1954: The £500 Bonus

BIG MONEY was at stake when Drumcondra met Saint Patrick's Athletic in the 1954 FAI Cup final. Pat's, only in the League of Ireland three years, had placed a substantial bet at generous odds before the first round and the prospect of a big pay-out was used as an incentive for the players. A figure as high as £500 a man was on offer and, to put that into perspective, it would have bought a good house in 1954.

Former Everton and Ireland star inside-forward Alec Stevenson was the popular manager of Pat's. Reckoned to be the best manager Pat's ever had, he was a players' man, giving them a rough time but still earning their respect. However, he was the centre of controversy over his Cup final selection when he left out the club's top scorer Shay Gibbons. "Shay had been playing but he was not consistent," he recalled. "He had bags of speed and could hit a ball with his right foot but he wasn't a great header and lacked heart so I left him out. I took a bit of stick over that, even the chairman didn't agree with my decision because Gibbons was a big favourite in Inchicore, but I did what I thought was right."

Stevenson's decision was obviously influenced by the semi-final games with Cup holders Cork Athletic. After a 0–0 draw, winger Joe Haverty was unavailable for the replay as he was needed for a Youth International in West Germany. Paddy 'Ginger' O'Rourke was introduced and took his chance well, scoring the only goal of the game. For the final, Stevenson decided to stick with O'Rourke and omit Gibbons to make room for Haverty's return.

Ironically, the game was decided by a misunderstanding at the

other end, when centre-half Dessie Byrne headed the ball over advancing goal-keeper Jimmy Collins' head and into his own net. Collins was married to Byrne's sister, so there must have been many an interesting family discussion on that goal! Defeat meant the usual £5 match fee instead of the £500 bonus, but for two Pat's players – Haverty and full-back Fergie Crawford – another offer was made, with Arsenal anxious to sign both young players, who were in their first season. Haverty agreed terms and moved to Highbury where he was a favourite for a number of years, but Crawford turned the London club down as he was anxious to finish his printing apprenticeship.

Drumcondra's success meant a quick return on his investment for club boss, Sam Prole, who had only taken over that season after moving from Dundalk. For Drums' manager Billy Behan the Cup final was the last leg of a unique hat-trick of involvement in Cup finals as player (1931 and 1936), referee (1943) and manager. Having taken over that season at Prole's request, Behan led Drums to Leinster Cup and FAI Cup success, but his reign was a short one, as a disagreement with Prole led to his resignation during the close season.

FIRST ROUND

February 27	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Jordan	**ALBERT ROVERS** ..... 1 Cremin
	JACOBS ..... 1 Hutchinson pen.	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Gibbons
February 28	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 4 O'Leary 3, Broderick	**BOTANIC** ..... 1 J. Murphy
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 6 Lester, Kinsella, Glynn 3, Rowe	**COBH RAMBLERS** 0
	EVERGREEN ..... 1 O'Neill pen.	**LIMERICK** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Coad	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Bradley
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Keely	**WATERFORD** 0
	TRANSPORT ..... 1 Lipper	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Kelly

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

March 3	ALBERT ROVERS ..... 1 Hackett	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Byrne, Dunne	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 J. O'Brien	JACOBS 0	
March 4	DUNDALK 0	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Tracey, Lipper	
March 10	SLIGO ROVERS 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Tuohy, Ambrose	

SECOND ROUND

March 20	SHELBOURNE 0	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Rowe, Fitzpatrick o.g.
March 21	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 2 D. Noonan, Moloney	BOHEMIANS 0
	EVERGREEN 0	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0
	TRANSPORT ..... 1 Conroy	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Nolan, Quinn o.g.

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 24	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Fitzgerald	EVERGREEN 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 3	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Glynn, Rowe	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Hennessy
April 4	CORK ATHLETIC 0	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 7	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 O'Rourke	CORK ATHLETIC 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 25	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 D. Byrne o.g. (79m.)	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0

Drumcondra: Paddy Neville, Shay Noonan, Pat Lynch, Tommy Kinsella, Johnny Robinson, Tim Coffey, Tommy Rowe, Paddy Daly, Bob Duffy, Dessie Glynn, Benny 'Rosie' Henderson.

St. Patrick's Athletic: Jimmy Collins, Tommy Desay, Fergie Crawford, Harry Boland, Dessie Byrne, Jimmy Nelson, Joe O'Brien, Tommy 'Longo' White, Christy Fitzgerald, Paddy 'Ginger' O'Rourke, Joe Haverty.

Attendance: 20,000 **Receipts: £2,200.**

CHAPTER 34

1955: Tuohy Avails of Reprieve

LIAM TUOHY had the sickness of his teammate Paddy Ambrose to thank for his FAI Cup debut in 1954 . . . at a time when his future with Shamrock Rovers was in doubt. Fortunately, he took his chance so well that he proved Rovers' matchwinner in his second Cup campaign in 1955 and went on to win four Cup medals, losing out on another two through sickness at Cup final time.

Tuohy was leading scorer in Rovers' reserves in March, 1954, when the club signed left-winger Christy Warren from Pearse Rovers. Warren took over from Tuohy, who had to suffer the ignominy of running the line! It looked like Tuohy's career was over before it had even started so, the following day being Sunday, he reverted to junior football with his East Wall pals.

Unknown to him, Rovers' centre-forward Ambrose had gone down with 'flu and, while Tuohy was out in the morning helping his mates, Milltown chief Joe Cunningham was calling to his house to notify him of his selection for the first team game against Saint Patrick's Athletic that afternoon. Fortunately, Tuohy made it to Milltown on time, Rovers drew 0–0 to collect another valuable point on their way to the League title, and the left-winger did well enough to be retained for the mid-week Cup replay away to Sligo Rovers.

Ambrose was back in action for that game and it's history now that Tuohy and Ambrose scored the goals which gave Rovers a 2–0 win. In the remaining twelve seasons he spent at Milltown, Tuohy was never dropped. A winger with pace and an eye for goal, only Paddy Coad scored more Cup goals for Rovers than Tuohy. In his first two

full seasons he won Cup medals but he had a particularly spectacular campaign in 1955 when he scored vital goals in each round, including the winner in the final against Drumcondra. "That final was so bad," he recalled, "that the crowd refused to give the ball back at one stage. Eventually another, older ball was produced, the throw-in was taken and I scored the only goal of the game."

Luck plays a major role in any footballer's career and Tuohy always felt he was lucky. After a spell with Newcastle United he returned to Rovers in 1963 as captain. "Rovers hadn't done anything the previous season and yet, with practically the same team, we swept the boards. After that, coach Sean Thomas should have been there for life but he left and I became player-coach and we won the Cup for the following five seasons." It was only in the later finals of that run that his own luck deserted him when a streptococcal throat infection caused him to miss playing in at least two of the big occasions.

The 1955 Cup also saw a most unusual incident in Rovers' 2–2 draw away to Sligo Rovers. The referee awarded Sligo a controversial penalty in the last minute with the score 2–1 in the Dublin club's favour. The pitch was invaded by both sets of supporters but the referee allowed the penalty to be taken even though the crowd was lined up from the uprights right around the penalty spot. If the kick had gone wide it would have hit a spectator! Sligo's Austrian international Albert Straka scored from the spot to make it 2–2.

Rovers' 1955 triumph marked the second occasion that a son emulated his father in winning a Cup medal. Right-full Mickey Burke's father John had been left-back on Rovers' famous five-in-a-row team of the 1930s. For Rovers' player-coach Paddy Coad the occasion was less memorable as a septic instep led to hospital treatment two days before the final. He was forced to step down, letting eighteen-year-old Hughie Gannon in for his Cup debut and a winner's medal.

FIRST ROUND

March 5	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 D. Curtis 2
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 4 O'Rourke 2, White, Gibbons	**GRANGEGORMAN** 0
March 6	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 O'Hara	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Geoghegan
	EVERGREEN ..... 2 Moroney, Cronin	**ALBERT ROVERS** ..... 2 Dwan, Cremin
	JACOBS 0	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 1 Ward
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Armstrong, Straka pen.	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Hennessy, Tuohy
	TRANSPORT ..... 3 Mangan, O'Brien, Lynam	**LIMERICK** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 6 J. Fitzgerald 2, Gauld 2, McIlvenny, Barry	**CORK ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Horgan

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

March 9	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Coad, Tuohy	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Reddy
	ALBERT ROVERS ..... 1 J. O'Connell	**EVERGREEN** ..... 2 Higgins, Moroney
March 10	**DUNDALK** 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Healy, O'Hara

SECOND ROUND

March 26	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 Mangan, O'Brien	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 3 Gilbert 2, Ward
March 27	**EVERGREEN** 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Glynn pen., O'Hara
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 McCann, Tuohy 2	**SHELBOURNE** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 5 D. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald, Gauld, McIlvenny, Price	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Gibbons

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 9	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Tuohy 2, Coad	**LONGFORD TOWN** 0
April 10	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 Barry, McIlvenny	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Henderson, Glynn pen.

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 13	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Glynn pen., Rowe	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 J. Casey

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 24	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Tuohy (78m.)	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Christy O'Callaghan, Mickey Burke, Gerry Mackey, Ronnie Nolan, Shay Keogh, Liam Hennessy, Jimmy 'Maxie' McCann, Noel Peyton, Paddy Ambrose, Hughie Gannon, Liam 'Rasher' Tuohy.

Drumcondra: Paddy Neville, Shay Noonan, Pat Lynch, Tommy Kinsella, Johnny Robinson, Dessie Glynn, Benny 'Rosie' Henderson, Tommy Rowe, Bob Duffy, Eddie O'Hara, Stan Pownall.

Attendance: 33,041 **Receipts:** £4,467.

CHAPTER 35

1956: Cork's Dietary Problems

CORK ATHLETIC'S defeat by Shamrock Rovers in the 1956 Cup final marked the end of an era which stretched back to 1940 when Athletic's predecessors, Cork United, were founded. Between them they won the League title seven times in a sixteen-year period, contested nine Cup finals and emerged victorious on four occasions. And to judge from Jimmy Delaney's experience, the Cork team of 1956 were the authors of their own misfortune. "I often wondered how they were able to play at all after the feeds they had before games," he said. "Soup, spuds, cabbage, meat, was their usual diet while I had a poached egg or something light. They ate too much but they were a grand bunch."

Delaney, who had helped Derry City win the IFA Cup in 1954 and packed grounds in the process, signed for Cork as player-coach and proceeded to pack grounds in the Republic also. Even though he was 41, he still had a lot to contribute and there was the added attraction of his bid to become the first player with Scottish, English, IFA and FAI Cup medals. His first two medals had been won with Glasgow Celtic and Manchester United.

Apart from their odd ideas about diet, Cork had another problem – goalkeeper Pascal O'Toole was a complete novice. In his first game with Cork, he knew so little about the rules that he went out near the touch-line to pick up the ball! He was learning all the time and, although he had a good semi-final against Waterford, he is often held responsible for one of the late goals by which Shamrock Rovers deprived Cork of the honours in the final.

Cork were so near to victory – 2–0 up with twelve minutes to go –

that one of their directors left Dalymount to buy the champagne. While he was away, this is what happened as described by Rovers' hero Ronnie Nolan: "Cork were 2–0 ahead and we were losing heart when Paddy Coad moved me to left-half with Liam Hennessy going left-full mid-way through the second half. We started going forward a bit more – it was all or nothing – and Tommy Hamilton got a good goal. Then we got a penalty to make it 2–2. At that stage we were all over them and, with two minutes to go, Coad took a corner and I headed it into the top right corner over Dave Noonan's head." Such were the celebrations it took the Rovers players twenty minutes to get off the pitch.

For Cork it was an unprecedented disaster of such magnitude that wing-half Johnny Moloney's comment is readily appreciated: "After the final we listened to the radio in our hotel and we still couldn't believe the result!"

Ronnie Nolan's goal had other repercussions. "The following day I met an old schoolmate of mine, Jack Kiely, and his leg was in plaster," recalled Nolan. "Apparently when I scored the winner he jumped up on the terraces, fell down the steps and broke his ankle!"

One Corkman whose 1956 Cup feat mustn't go unrecorded is Eddie Doran of Evergreen United, who hit three goals in three minutes in the first round tie away to Limerick. In all probability, this is a Cup record although the timing of goals was not common in the early years of the Cup.

FIRST ROUND

February 18	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Reid	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Foster
February 19	**BRAY WANDERERS** ..... 2 Duggan, Giles	**LONGFORD TOWN** 0
	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 3 O'Leary 2, W. Moloney	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Cassidy 2
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Docherty	**EVERGREEN** ..... 5 Doran 3, Vaughan, Cronin
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 O'Reilly, Fitzpatrick o.g.	**SHELBOURNE** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Armstrong	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Glynn pen.
	WATERFORD ..... 3 Johnstone, O'Grady, Price	**ALBERT ROVERS** 0
	WORKMAN'S CLUB ..... 3 Millar, Mooney, Hill	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Callan

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 22	BOHEMIANS	1	TRANSPORT	3
	Hoey		Brady, O'Brien, Conroy	
February 29	DRUMCONDRA	2	SLIGO ROVERS	0
	Lawlor, Pownall			

SECOND ROUND

March 3	DRUMCONDRA	0	SHAMROCK ROVERS	3
			Coad, Hamilton, Hennessy pen.	
March 4	BRAY WANDERERS	0	WORKMAN'S CLUB	0
	CORK ATHLETIC	0	EVERGREEN	0
	TRANSPORT	1	WATERFORD	1
	Conroy		D. Fitzgerald	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 7	EVERGREEN	1	CORK ATHLETIC	2
	Lynam pen.		Delaney, Collins	
	BRAY WANDERERS	0	WORKMAN'S CLUB	1
			Hill	
March 8	WATERFORD	1	TRANSPORT	0
	J. Fitzgerald			

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 7	SHAMROCK ROVERS	2	WORKMAN'S CLUB	1
	Tuohy, Hamilton		May	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 8	WATERFORD	0	CORK ATHLETIC	0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 11	CORK ATHLETIC	5	WATERFORD	1
	Delaney, Murphy 2, Horgan 2		G. Hale	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 29	SHAMROCK ROVERS	3	CORK ATHLETIC	2
	Hamilton (77m.), Hennessy pen. (80m.), Nolan (92m.)		Delaney (34m.), Murphy (43m.)	

Shamrock Rovers: Christy O'Callaghan, Mickey Burke, Ronnie Nolan, Paddy Coad, Gerry Mackey, Liam Hennessy, Jimmy McCann, Noel Peyton, Paddy Ambrose, Tommy Hamilton, Liam Tuohy.

Cork Athletic: Pascal O'Toole, Paddy Noonan, Dave Noonan, Johnny Moloney, John Coughlan, Tim Daly, John Horgan, Tommy Collins, Jimmy Delaney, Jimmy Murphy, Donie Wallace.

Attendance: 35,017 **Receipts: £4,657.**

CHAPTER 36

1957: Radford's Master Switch

FRANK RADFORD, Drumcondra's coach when they reached the FAI Cup final in 1957, had spent some years with Shamrock Rovers and he put the lessons learned at Milltown to good effect as Rovers provided the opposition in a Cup final which Drums won 2–0. Rovers' inside-forwards Noel Peyton and Paddy Coad were thrown out of gear by the tight marking of Drums' wing-halves Brendan Healy and Tommy Rowe, but the master switch involved wingers Willie Coleman and Stan Pownall. Coleman, usually a right-winger, operated on the left and gave Mickey Burke a torrid time. He proved the difference between the teams on the day, being taken down for the penalty from which Drumcondra took the lead and then adding the second goal himself.

While Rovers surprisingly omitted Tommy Hamilton from their forward line, Drumcondra surprisingly included Mick Gorman in theirs. Signed only two months previously, Gorman had only played one first team game before the final but had been making an impression in the reserves. A bustling centre-forward, he had attracted the attention of Aston Villa but declined their offer. Chosen to unsettle Rovers' centre-half Gerry Mackey, he did his job well. In a brief career in senior football, he won an amateur cap against Holland, apart from his Cup medal, but he returned to his first love – hurling – the following season.

Christy 'Bunny' Fullam was another of Radford's successes. Fullam had won amateur caps with Bohemians and a League medal with Shelbourne in 1952-53 but was then placed on the transfer list and opted for Welsh League football with Holyhead Town. "At the start

of the 1956-57 season Frank Radford came in for me," recalled Fullam. "He gave me a month's trial and, at the end of the month, I was signed. I was delighted because it put an end to three years of travelling over to Holyhead every Friday night." Fullam was Drums' penalty-taker and he had his nerve tested in the Cup final. "Darcy saved my kick," he said, "but he had moved before the kick so the referee ordered it to be re-taken. Some of the lads told me not to take it but Radford insisted I take it and I had my mind made up anyway. The second time I just hit it and I knew it had to go in."

Fullam, who was captain of the Drumcondra team which so nearly completed the double in 1960-61, felt the 1957 team was better. "The semi-final, when we beat Evergreen United 5–2, was the best we ever played," he said. "Kit Lawlor was magic. He gave an exhibition that day, he was like George Best. Every time he got near the goal it was danger." Lawlor, who had been on the Drums' team beaten by Rovers in the 1948 Cup final, was in his second spell at Tolka Park, having had some years in England with Doncaster Rovers.

The up and coming players on the team included Coleman, goalkeeper Alan Kelly and centre-half John 'Sonny' O'Neill. The latter two were transferred the following year, after Drums had won the League, to Preston North End, with Kelly going on to become the most-capped Republic of Ireland goalkeeper. As far as Rovers' boss Paddy Coad was concerned, Kelly was the one who got away. "I was tipped off about him and I saw him a couple of times," he recalled. "He didn't impress me at all, yet he turned out to be an international goalkeeper. You don't win all the time." Sam Prole, the Drumcondra owner, felt much the same way about winger Coleman. He had a deal lined up with Sunderland but the Dundalk-based youngster didn't want to move to England. Ironically, after he was married, he went to work in England.

One goal from the 1957 Cup campaign which deserves mention was that scored in a first round tie by Shelbourne's Tommy Carberry against Shamrock Rovers at Milltown. "It was a goal the like of which you'll never see again," recalled Shels' manager Gerry Doyle. "His shot hit the cross-bar and flew out over goalie Darcy's head and his own as he was running in. So he did the only thing he could: he threw himself arse over tip, hit the ball flush with his heel and it rocketed into the net!"

FIRST ROUND

February 16	WORKMAN'S CLUB ..... 1 Duggan		TRANSPORT 0	

February 17	AOH 0		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Colton	
	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 4 Kelly pen., Collins 2, Welstead		UCD ..... 2 P. Noonan o.g., Plunkett	
	EVERGREEN ..... 1 Lynam		DUNDALK ..... 1 S. Noonan pen.	
	LIMERICK ..... 2 Kemmy pen., Lipper		BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Levins pen., Walsh	
	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 Archbold		DRUMCONDRA ..... 5 Cross 3, Pownall, Coleman	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Coad, McCann		SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Carberry, Dillon	
	WATERFORD ..... 4 J. Fitzgerald 4		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 20	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 O'Farrell		LIMERICK ..... 4 Lipper, Cunneen, Bergin 2	
February 21	DUNDALK 0		EVERGREEN ..... 3 Noonan, Leahy 2	
February 27	SHELBOURNE 0		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 McCann	

SECOND ROUND

March 10	CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Coughlan		LIMERICK ..... 1 Johnston	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Hennessy, Tuohy		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Colton	
	WATERFORD ..... 3 D. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald, Bergin		EVERGREEN ..... 3 Leahy 2, Noonan pen.	
	WORKMAN'S CLUB 0		DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 McCourt	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 13	EVERGREEN ..... 3 O'Leary 3		WATERFORD 0	
March 14	LIMERICK ..... 4 Johnston 2, Kemmy pen., Cunneen		CORK ATHLETIC ..... 1 Welstead	

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 30	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Keogh		LIMERICK ..... 1 Cunneen	

March 31	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 5 Lawlor 2, Fanning, Pownall, Coleman	**EVERGREEN** ..... 2 O'Leary Lynam

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 3	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 McCann, Tuohy, Ambrose	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Bergin

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 28	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Fullam pen. (22m.), Coleman (47m.)	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

Drumcondra: Alan Kelly, Christy 'Bunny' Fullam, George McDonnell, Brendan Healy, John 'Sonny' O'Neill, Tommy Rowe, Stan Pownall, John 'Kit' Lawlor, Mickey Gorman, Jackie McCourt, Willie Coleman.

Shamrock Rovers: Eamonn 'Sheila' Darcy, Mickey Burke, Shay Keogh, Ronnie Nolan, Gerry Mackey, Liam Hennessy, Jimmy 'Maxie' McCann, Noel Peyton, Paddy Ambrose, Paddy Coad, Liam 'Rasher' Tuohy.

Attendance: 30,000 **Receipts: £4,000**

CHAPTER 37

1958: Glory for Gannon

HUGHIE GANNON won two FAI Cup medals – in 1955 and 1958 – but, even though it cost him a fractured jaw, he had no hesitation in naming his 1958 medal as the most memorable. Softening the blow was the fact that he received his injury in the best possible manner – while scoring the goal that gave Dundalk a 1–0 victory over his old club, Shamrock Rovers!

"My Cup medal in 1955 with Shamrock Rovers was a gift," he recalled. "I had come to Rovers about a month before the final from Johnville, with whom I had been playing minor football even though Rovers were paying me a wage for eighteen months – since I returned from a trial with Manchester United. When I was found out, Rovers took up their option on me and I played about three League games before the Cup final, the first under an assumed name – Behan – because I wasn't properly registered! On the morning of the Cup final I was playing in Ringsend Park when Paddy Coad called to our house and said I was to report to Dalymount Park without my dinner. I didn't know anything about playing until I arrived there at 2.30 Coad himself was injured – he had a bad instep – but he had obviously wanted me to have a good night's sleep. After the match I offered my medal to Coad but he said no, whoever plays in a Cup final gets a medal."

When he failed to break into the great Rovers team of 1956, Gannon moved on to Shelbourne for the 1956-57 season and from there to Dundalk in October, 1957. With former Drumcondra defenders Shay Noonan and Johnny Robinson and ex-Irish League players Ted McNeill, Vincent Gilmore and George Toner, the Dundalk team

had a makeshift look about it and Rovers were 5/2 on favourites to record another Cup triumph.

However, the pundits had reckoned without the Dundalk defence which hadn't conceded a goal in the Cup and wasn't going to give away any gifts now. "Ted McNeill didn't have a goal scored against him but he lived dangerously on a couple of occasions," recalled Dundalk director Jim Malone. "In the replay against Limerick the referee gave us a free and McNeill took a quick one to Joe Ralph which was intercepted and put into the net. The referee disallowed it on the grounds that the ball hadn't cleared the eighteen-yard line but even we were amazed at that decision."

With the final scoreless in the second half, Gannon struck for Dundalk. "A long ball was kicked on and I sprinted through the middle after it," he recalled. "The ball bounced around the penalty spot, Rovers' goalie Christy O'Callaghan was slow off his line and I managed to hit the ball with my head and then was hit on the jaw. I remember Gerry Mackey saying to me, 'it's all right, Hughie, the ball is in the net'."

Gannon, not realising he had a broken jaw, was handed a sponge and played out the rest of the game on the wing. He and his colleagues survived a major scare when Tommy Kerr handled but Liam Hennessy drove the resultant penalty wide.

"I think we knew then that Rovers would never score," said Gannon. "In the dressing-room I started spitting out blood and was brought over to the Mater Hospital. I got out a week later – when the celebrations were all over! That second medal was more important to me because I earned it. The first medal was a gift."

Rovers didn't help their cause in the final with a controversial selection which saw regulars Shay Keogh and Tommy Hamilton dropped for newcomers Tommy Farrell and Sean Carroll, signed recently from Home Farm. Unhappy player-coach Paddy Coad could only inform Inter-League cap Hamilton that "selection has been taken out of my hands." It was a familiar plea at Milltown during the Cunningham family reign.

FIRST ROUND

February 15	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**EVERGREEN** ..... 2 Coughlan, Moloney
February 16	**BRAY WANDERERS** ..... 1 Seerey	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 O'Brien pen., Kane
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Healy	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Johnston

	DUNDALK ..... 1 Gannon	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. .....2 Whelan, Dunne	**TYCOR ATHLETIC** ..... 1 McEvoy
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Ambrose, Coad, McCann, Tuohy	**CHAPELIZOD** ..... 1 O'Connor
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 McDonagh, Armstrong	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 0 Treacy o.g.
	WATERFORD ..... 5 J. Fitzgerald 2, D. Fitzgerald, Hunt, Norris	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Garland

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 20	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Wallace	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

SECOND ROUND

March 8	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 3 Mitchell 2, Fitzgerald	**EVERGREEN** ..... 1 Leahy
March 9	**LIMERICK** 0	**DUNDALK** 0
	SHELBOURNE 0	**WATERFORD** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Armstrong	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Nolan

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 12	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Hamilton, McCann, Tuohy	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Bradley, McCaul
March 13	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 Gannon 2, McGahon	**LIMERICK** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Griffin, D. Hale	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Webber, Kane

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 19	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Keegan	**WATERFORD** 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 29	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Hennessy pen.	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0
March 30	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Gilmore	**SHELBOURNE** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20 **DUNDALK** ..... 1 **SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0
Gannon (62m.)

Dundalk: Ted McNeill, Joe Ralph, Ken Finn, Leo McDonagh, Johnny Robinson, Shay Noonan, Niall McGahon, Hughie Gannon, Vincent Gilmore, George Toner, Tommy Kerr.

Shamrock Rovers: Christy O'Callaghan, Mickey Burke, Gerry Mackey, Ronnie Nolan, Tommy Farrell, Liam Hennessy, Jimmy 'Maxie' McCann, Sean Carroll, Paddy Ambrose, Paddy Coad, Liam 'Rasher' Tuohy.

Attendance: 27,000 **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 38

1959: Alec's Fateful Decision

A FATEFUL decision taken by manager Alec Stevenson eleven days before the 1959 Cup final had a vital bearing on Waterford's chances against Saint Patrick's Athletic. The teams were scheduled to meet each other in a League game at Tolka Park and Stevenson, mindful that it was a 'final rehearsal,' was undecided whether to rest top scorer Alfie Hale or flying winger Jack Fitzgerald. Eventually he decided to rest the older Fitzgerald, a decision which rebounded on him when Hale was carried off with torn knee ligaments, following a tackle with Saint Pat's captain Tommy Dunne. Hale spent the following six months in plaster.

In the absence of Hale, a young local, Seamus Halpin, was introduced for the Cup final but he made little impression as the teams fought out a 2–2 draw and was replaced by another local, Teddy Brett, for the replay which Saint Pat's won 2–1 to take the FAI Cup to Inchicore for the first time. A crucial factor in the game was a missed penalty by Richard 'Dixie' Hale, the older brother of usual penalty-taker Alfie. 'Dixie', who was one of the star players in both games, blazed the spot kick over the bar.

'Dixie' was the youngest player ever to play for Waterford, lining out as a sixteen-year-old in the 1951–52 season. He won a Shield medal the following season and was then signed as a full-time professional by Shamrock Rovers. However, he got tired of life in Dublin and soon moved back to Waterford. At the time of the 1959 final he was unemployed and was making plans to emigrate to England and play non-League football the following season when Waterford contacted Swansea Town and a deal was done. 'Dixie',

who had a ten-year career in England in the lower Divisions, was one of the best Irish players never capped, but he was honoured by the League of Ireland selectors on a number of occasions.

Saint Patrick's Athletic goalkeeper, Dinny Lowry, had another player's misfortune to thank for his first Cup medal. "I was out of favour earlier that season with John Heavey in goal," he recalled. "I wasn't even bothering playing for the reserves. Then one Sunday after dinner I got a call to play because Heavey had gone over on his ankle playing on the street. I had a blinder and he never got back, eventually leaving for Shelbourne." Lowry won a second medal with Pat's in 1961, but Heavey didn't do too badly either, winning League and Cup honours with Shelbourne.

The Cup final occasion had an extra special meaning for Pat's captain Tommy Dunne, son of the late great Jimmy Dunne. In 1940 he had been part of the Cup final occasion when Shamrock Rovers, managed by his father who also played, beat Sligo Rovers 3–0. Tommy was Rovers' mascot. He later played for the Milltown club before moving to Saint Pat's where he enjoyed a lot of success, winning League and Cup medals, inter-League and international honours.

Undoubtedly the biggest shock of the 1959 campaign occurred in the very first match, when bottom of the table Bohemians beat League leaders Shamrock Rovers 3–2. The elements played a part in this game, with Bohs going into a 3–0 half-time lead after having the elements in their favour, and Rovers just not managing the equaliser despite incessant pressure in the second period. It was of such a game that the late Billy Lord's after-match comment, "Football is a funny game," was greeted with, "Yes, and everyone's laughing at us," by the ready-witted Liam Tuohy!

FIRST ROUND

February 14	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Webber 2, Moraghan	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Lynch, Tuohy
February 15	**BRAY WANDERERS** ..... 1 Bennett	**CHAPELIZOD** ..... 2 Bailey 2 (1 pen.)
	COBH RAMBLERS 0	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Forster o.g.
	DUNDALK ..... 3 Murphy, Hoey, McGahon	**ALBERT ROVERS** ..... 3 T. Collins 2, Hickey
	EVERGREEN ..... 1 O'Brien	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Morley
	LIMERICK ..... 3 O'Reilly 2, G. McCarthy	**SHELBOURNE** 0

	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 J. Dunne, Peyton, T. Dunne	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Meldrum
	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Moore, O'Reilly pen.	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 P. Fitzgerald 2

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 18	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 2 Vaughan, Redmond	**EVERGREEN** ..... 1 Leahy
February 19	**WATERFORD** ..... 4 D. Hale, P. Fitzgerald, A. Hale 2	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Hyland
February 25	**ALBERT ROVERS** 0	**DUNDALK** 0

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 2	**ALBERT ROVERS** 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 4 McDonagh, Gibbons, Murphy, Noonan pen.

SECOND ROUND

March 7	**CHAPELIZOD** ..... 1 Sherry	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 4 Peyton, Whelan, J. Dunne 2 (1 pen.)
March 8	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Webber	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Vaughan
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Rowe, Duffy	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 McNamara, Wallace
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Noonan pen.	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 P. Fitzgerald, A. Hale

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 11	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 3 Cahill o.g., Vaughan, O'Connor	**BOHEMIANS** 0
March 12	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Wallace	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Coleman

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 19	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Coleman	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Lynam

SECOND ROUND THIRD REPLAY: MILLTOWN

March 24	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 O'Reilly 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

March 28	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Curtin	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 29	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Coady	**LIMERICK** 0	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 19	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Hunt o.g. (6m.), McGeehan (81m.)	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 J. Fitzgerald (25m.), O'Brien o.g. (80m.)	

St. Patrick's Athletic: Dinny Lowry, Johnny White, Harry O'Brien, Tommy Dunne, Doug Boucher, Vinny O'Reilly, Pascal Curtin, Ronnie Whelan, Johnny McGeehan, Jimmy Dunne, Willie Peyton.

Waterford: Vincent Dunphy, Jack Hunt, Milo Slattery, Richard 'Dixie' Hale, Con Martin, Noel Griffin, Denny Fitzgerald, Jack Fitzgerald, Peter Fitzgerald, Seamus Halpin, Tommy Coady.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: Not available.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 McGeehan (2m.), Peyton (54m.)	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 P. Fitzgerald (57m.)	

St. Patrick's Athletic: Paddy 'Ginger' O'Rourke for Whelan. **Waterford:** Teddy Brett for Halpin.

Attendance: 22,800 **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 39

1960: Doyle's Babes Triumph

GERRY DOYLE, who became manager of Shelbourne mid-way through the 1956-57 season, was a great believer in a youth policy so it was entirely fitting that he should capture his first major trophy – the FAI Cup in 1960 – with one of the youngest teams ever to represent Dublin's oldest professional club. Doyle, a former Shelbourne player, had been involved with Saint Finbarr's schoolboy teams, and had sent players to Shelbourne before he was appointed manager. A firm believer in the maxim, 'if they're good enough they're old enough,' he held firm to his belief in youth during his successful managerial career. With the exception of winger Ollie Conroy, Shelbourne's 1960 team was Under-23, with three players – full-back Tony Dunne and forwards Eric Barber and Jackie Hennessy – winning senior FAI Cup medals just twelve months after winning FAI Youth Cup medals with Shelbourne.

However, for manager Doyle, the star of the side was inside-right Christy Doyle. "He was the best player I ever had," he recalled. "A nephew of the great Jimmy Dunne, he was capped after only two seasons in the League of Ireland. I signed him from Alton of Donnybrook. He had won no honours as a schoolboy or youth, but I was a nervous wreck for six weeks until I got him to sign. He was fast, with a great shot in either foot. He could have gone to England, and it was a tragedy when he gave it up after only three seasons in the League."

One Shelbourne player who did take his chance in England was right-full Tony Dunne. A fee had been agreed with Manchester United after Shels' League game with Shamrock Rovers on April 10,

Shelbourne 1960. From left, front row: Jackie Hennessy, Ollie Conroy, Joe Wilson, Theo Dunne (captain), Freddie Strahan. Back row: Eric Barber, Christy Doyle, Tony Dunne, Finbar Flood, Jackie Kelly, Brendan O'Brien.

but United manager Matt Busby let Dunne stay with Shelbourne for the Cup final. "Winning the Cup was probably the biggest thing I had ever won in my life and I was over the moon," recalled Dunne, "but I wasn't given a lot of time to be happy about it because I travelled the next day to Manchester." Dunne subsequently won every honour in the game with United: League, Cup and European Cup medals, plus 32 caps. For many years he was rated the best left-back in Europe.

The Sunday before the Cup final, Dunne was in the wars and had to go off when Shelbourne lost 4–3 to Cork Celtic at Turner's Cross in a League game. The game mattered a lot more to Celtic than to Shelbourne – and Shels finished with nine men! Goalkeeper Billy Behan, in because regular 'keeper Finbar Flood had fractured a finger, was also a casualty. As a result, Flood lined out in the final with his fractured finger strapped.

The final against Cork Hibernians was far from memorable, with Shelbourne winning 2–0 after the Cork side had an early Johnny Vaughan 'goal' disallowed – a pattern which was to be repeated when the sides met again in the 1963 final. Shelbourne's best display was undoubtedly that against old rivals Shamrock Rovers in a second round replay. "We got a bad Press after the first game because we couldn't finish off the ten men when Liam Hennessy had to go off injured," recalled Freddie Strahan. "For the replay Gerry Doyle used the Press criticism to motivate us and we played our best to win 3–0."

Hibernians, who included the legendary Charlie Tully of Belfast Celtic and Glasgow Celtic fame, had a young Jackie Morley at wing-half. Morley was destined to compete in four Cup finals – two with Hibernians and two with Waterford – but a winner's medal eluded him.

FIRST ROUND

February 14	**CORK CELTIC** 0	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 A. Hale
	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 4 Lynam, Collins Tully, Bailham	**PIKE ROVERS** ..... 3 Tuite, Lipper, Cunneen
	DUNDALK ..... 2 Lawlor 2	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Peyton
	LIMERICK ..... 6 O'Brien, O'Reilly 2, Lynam, Hyland o.g., O'Connor	**LONGFORD TOWN** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Cross, Hennessy pen.	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Ryan 2

	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 4 McGarry 3, Arthurs		**BRAY WANDERERS** ..... 2 Bennett 2 (2 pens.)
	TRANSPORT ..... 3 Mitchell 2, Reville		**JACOBS** ..... 1 Dixon
February 17	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 5 Hennessy 3, Barber, Doyle		**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Dalton, O'Brien

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 25	**DRUMCONDRA** 0		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Ambrose

SECOND ROUND

March 6	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0		**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
	DUNDALK ..... 4 Meldrum, Harte, Munroe, T. Murphy		**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Hendricks
	LIMERICK ..... 1 O'Reilly		**WATERFORD** ..... 3 D. Fitzgerald, S. Coad 2
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Hamilton		**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Hennessy

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 9	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Barber 2, Doyle		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 McGarry, Armstrong		**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 3 Maguire, Lane, Collins

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 2	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 4 Barber, Hennessy, Wilson, Conroy		**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Harte
April 3	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Dunphy o.g.		**WATERFORD** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 24	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Barber (33m.), Wilson (75m.)		**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0

Shelbourne: Finbarr Flood, Tony Dunne, Brendan O'Brien, Theo Dunne, Freddie Strahan, Jackie Kelly, Joe Wilson, Christy Doyle, Eric Barber, Jackie Hennessy, Ollie Conroy.

Cork Hibernians: Sean O'Brien, Jerry Lane, Liam O'Flynn, Tony O'Brien, Patsy Dorgan, Jackie Morley, Johnny Vaughan, Dessie Maguire, Tommy Collins, Charlie Tully, Mick Aherne.

Attendance: 32,308 **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 40

1961: White's Bizarre Goal

CONFIDENCE is desirable going into a Cup final, but over-confidence has to be guarded against. Drumcondra fell victim to the latter when, as League of Ireland champions, they lost to Saint Patrick's Athletic 2–1 in the 1961 FAI Cup final. "We thought we had it won," recalled captain Christy 'Bunny' Fullam. "We were so confident and playing so well. We hadn't been beaten for a long time and, in ten or eleven weeks, we had hardly had a goal scored against us." Drums could be forgiven for dismissing Saint Pat's lightly, for they had completed the double over them in the League, with a 6–0 win at home and a 2–0 win away. Pat's, however, had proved their Cup mettle by twice travelling to Cork and coming away with a win each time. They also beat Cup holders Shelbourne en route to the final.

When the League's top scorer, Dan McCaffrey, gave Drums the lead after ten minutes it seemed the double was on, but then the game turned around following a bizarre equalising goal. "Saint Pat's got a free kick on the half-way line and Sean McCarthy squared it to Johnny White," recalled Drumcondra goalkeeper Mick Smyth. "He hit it towards goal, I saw it, came out and caught a glimpse of a red shirt out of the corner of my eye. By the time I looked back the ball was floating over my head into the net – the wind had caught it in that instant when I was distracted. At that moment I wished the ground would open up and swallow me."

It was a bitter blow for the twenty-year-old goalie but it proved to be the only Cup final blemish in a career which took in seven deciders. Smyth was never subsequently on the losing side in a Cup final, winning five times with Shamrock Rovers and once with Bohe-

St. Patrick's Athletic, 1961. From left, front row: Joe Cronin, Joe Clarke, Johnny McGeehan, Johnny White, Tommy Dunne (captain), Martin Dunne (chairman), Paddy "Ginger" O'Rourke, Tommy "Longo" White, Pascal Curtin, Brian Treacy, Willie McCormack. Second row: Harry Boland, Tommy Desay (trainer), Ralph Darlington, Sean McCarthy, Ronnie Whelan, Dinny Lowry, Vinny O'Reilly, Jimmy Bligh, Jimmy McCormack, Dickie Peacock (physio). Back row: Dessie Byrne, Jimmy Collins (manager), Arthur Costello, Willie Mullen, Bart Cummins, Denis Ward, Gerry McCann. Missing: Willie Peyton, Jimmy Redmond.

mians. He also went on to earn international and inter-League honours and had a short spell in England with Barrow.

For Saint Patrick's Athletic it was their second Cup triumph in three years – each time as underdogs. Manager on each occasion was Jimmy Collins, the only goalkeeper to manage two Cup-winning teams, while the winning goal in both finals was struck by left-winger Willie Peyton. Wing-half Joe Clarke completed a notable double, having won an FAI Junior Cup medal with Saint Saviour's in 1959.

The 1961 Cup campaign was also notable for the departure of Paddy Coad whose name was synonymous with the Cup for more than twenty years. His goal for Waterford in the semi-final against Drumcondra was his forty-first Cup goal, a record which is unlikely to be surpassed. A native of Waterford, most of his goals were scored with Shamrock Rovers between 1942 and 1958, but he had short spells with his local club before and after his Milltown years. His total of eleven caps would have been much greater but for the war and he was honoured on numerous occasions by the League of Ireland selectors between 1943 and 1955.

Coad played in eight finals, one with Waterford, the rest with Rovers, and missed another final through illness, but he was only on the winning side four times. However, as player-coach at Milltown, he built up a team in the 1950s which became known as Coad's Colts and which was accepted as the team to beat. Coad's Colts set the standard for others to match and their epic clashes with teams like Waterford, Drumcondra, Saint Patrick's Athletic, Shelbourne and Evergreen United ensured League of Ireland football of a massive following.

FIRST ROUND

February 18	**TRANSPORT** 0	**JACOBS** ..... 1 Sinclair
February 19	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Barber
	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Noonan	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Curtin, O'Reilly
	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Morley pen.	**DUNDALK** 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Connor o.g., Fullam pen.	**WORKMAN'S CLUB** ..... 1 O'Leary
	LIMERICK 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

	SLIGO ROVERS 0		WATERFORD ..... 1 Crawford o.g.	
	TYCOR ATHLETIC ..... 2 Woods, Quinn		ALBERT ROVERS 0	

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 22	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Ambrose		LIMERICK 0	

SECOND ROUND

March 11	JACOBS 0		CORK HIBERNIANS 0	
March 12	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 O'Rourke, McGeehan		SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Barber	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0		WATERFORD ..... 1 Nolan o.g.	
	TYCOR ATHLETIC 0		DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Morrissey, McCaffrey	

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 15	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Mooney, Collins		JACOBS ..... 1 Murphy pen.	

(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 9	DRUMCONDRA ..... 4 Morrissey, McCaffrey, Pownall, Halpin		WATERFORD ..... 1 P. Coad	

SEMI-FINAL: MARDYKE, CORK

April 9	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Vaughan		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 O'Rourke, Whelan	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 White (22m.), Peyton (57m.)		DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 McCaffrey (10m.)	

St. Patrick's Athletic: Dinny Lowry, Johnny White, Tommy Dunne, Joe Clarke, Sean McCarthy, Vinny O'Reilly, Pascal Curtin, Paddy 'Ginger' O'Rourke, Jimmy Redmond, Ronnie Whelan, Willie Peyton.

Drumcondra: Mick Smyth, Christy 'Bunny' Fullam, Alf Girvan, Robert Prole, Sean Smith, Tommy Rowe, Ray Keogh, Ned Halpin, Dan McCaffrey, Jimmy Morrissey, Stan Pownall.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 41

1962: Smallpox Scare Hits Shels

SHAMROCK ROVERS are the kingpins where the FAI Cup is concerned, so there is nothing any other team likes better than to lower their colours – especially in the final. While this feeling is true of every team in the League of Ireland, it is even more so in the case of Shelbourne, Rovers' traditional Ringsend rivals. In their early days, Rovers drew their support from the Ringsend side of the bridge, while Shels got their support from the city side. In 1962 that rivalry was as strong as ever and April 29 was a festive occasion in Ringsend as the great rivals met each other in the Cup final for the third time.

Rovers had come out on top in 1925 and 1944 but Shelbourne supporters had good reason to believe that 1962 would be a different story. Weren't the Reds League champions and hadn't they, nine days previously, hammered Rovers 6–2 in an important League game? With a young, exciting team, most of whom had won Cup medals in 1960, it seemed Shels for once were entitled to be favourites, especially as Rovers were in something of a transition period since the great Paddy Coad had returned to Waterford.

Fate, in the shape of a smallpox scare on the European continent, took a hand. The League of Ireland had arranged a game against the Italian Lega Nazionale for May 6 in Rimini and the players chosen had to be vaccinated against smallpox. Few players suffered any reaction but, unfortunately for Shelbourne, two who did were defenders Freddie Strahan and Tommy Carroll. Strahan spent the week before the final in bed with a high temperature. Another injection on the Saturday failed to bring any relief.

"I got out as we were going for the double," recalled Strahan, "but

I shouldn't have played. It was a scorching day and I was so weak I didn't have the legs. Even my father, who knew nothing about football, told me I got a roasting." Ironically, it was revealed after the final that the smallpox injections had been unnecessary.

While Strahan had been suffering his temperature in silence, Rovers' troubles had been given plenty of Press space. Tommy Hamilton, who had won a Cup medal in 1956, but was surprisingly omitted for the finals of 1957 and 1958 which Rovers lost, had been enjoying a tremendous season but was left out for the semi-final against Waterford. The Press reacted strongly against what seemed another injustice to the likeable Bray man.

The issue was resolved when Tony Byrne, who had just made his way back into the team following an injury sustained on a U.S. tour, injured his knee in training. He failed a fitness test at Milltown on the morning of the semi-final, Hamilton was recalled and promptly made the most of it with a fine display and the goal which earned Rovers a replay.

The Cup final was Hamilton's last competitive game for Rovers and he turned on the style, scoring twice in what he described as "the best game I ever had with Rovers." The following night he had a benefit game against Sunderland and then, as his business took him to Cork, he joined Cork Hibernians in an exchange which took Jackie Mooney to Milltown. To round off a great season, Hamilton was voted 'Personality of the Year' by the Soccer Writers' Association of Ireland.

FIRST ROUND

February 18	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 J. Boyce		**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Kane	
	CORK CELTIC ..... 3 McDonagh o.g., Leahy, O'Leary		**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Cross, Callan	
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Kennedy, Girvan, Keogh		**RINGMAHON RANGERS** 0	
	LIMERICK ..... 2 Mulvey 2		**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 3 Whelan, O'Rourke, Peyton pen.	
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Turner, Munns 2		**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Hamilton, Bailham 2	
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Sinnott, A. Casey		**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 McElroy	
	WORKMAN'S CLUB 0		**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Hennessy, Hannigan	

February 25	**PIKE ROVERS** ..... 2 P. Hackett, Costelloe	**LONGFORD TOWN** ..... 1 Dodrill

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 21	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Fottrell	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Boyce 2, Dowling
February 28	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 O'Neill	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0

SECOND ROUND

March 11	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Bailham
	PIKE ROVERS ..... 1 Casey	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Coleman, Wilson
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Whelan	**CORK CELTIC** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 2 J. Fitzgerald, D. Fitzgerald	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 13	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Hannigan 2, Wilson	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0
April 15	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Hamilton	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Sinnott

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 18	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 5 Bailham 2, Ambrose, O'Neill 2	**WATERFORD** ..... 2 Jimmy O'Neill, Dixon

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 28	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 4 Ambrose 2 (37m., 44m.), Hamilton 2 (63m., 85m.)	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Barber (31m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Paddy Henderson, John Keogh, Pat Courtney, Ronnie Nolan, Tommy Farrell, Eamonn Farrell, Frank O'Neill, Tommy Hamilton, Eddie Bailham, Paddy Ambrose, Tony O'Connell.

Shelbourne: John Heavey, Tommy Carroll, Brendan O'Brien, Paddy Bonham, Freddie Strahan, Paddy Roberts, Joey Wilson, Ben Hannigan, Eric Barber, Jackie Hennessy, Ollie Conroy.

Attendance: 32,000 **Receipts: £4,600.**

CHAPTER 42

Tommy Hamilton

1963: Holland Puzzles Hammo

ENGLISH referees have been in charge of many FAI Cup finals and, in 1963, one of the best of them, Arthur Holland, had the whistle for the game between Shelbourne and Cork Hibernians. Controversy surrounded one of his decisions, as Hibernians' inside-right Tommy Hamilton recalled: "Shelbourne were winning 1–0 when their goalkeeper John Heavey tried a short kick-out to Freddie Strahan and Johnny Kingston nipped in and scored. The referee disallowed it and when I queried him he said the ball wasn't outside the area but he changed that afterwards and said that he disallowed the goal because our trainer George O'Sullivan was still on the pitch after treating one of our players. We at Hibs always thought it was a good goal."

Shelbourne were worthy winners on a day when a bus strike affected the attendance, but they had to depend on half-back Paddy Roberts and full-back Paddy Bonham (from penalty) for their goals. Bonham made the team because of an injury to regular left-back Brendan O'Brien. Shelbourne were nearly deprived of another key figure, as centre-half and captain Freddie Strahan played with his right side plastered up from an injury received in the week prior to the final. Right-back Tommy Carroll became the fourth member of Shelbourne's 1959 Youth Cup-winning team to add a senior medal to his collection. He later played in England with Ipswich Town and Birmingham City.

Once again, Shelbourne's best displays came in the rounds before the Cup final. After being held to a draw by Drumcondra in the quarter-final, the return of veteran winger Ollie Conroy inspired a great 2–0 win in the replay, with Conroy laying on both goals. Shelbourne had to play most of the game with ten men, as inside-right Ben Hannigan was sent off. Hannigan, who had taken over after the early retirement of Christy Doyle, was a skilful but controversial figure and, in the final, referee Holland had to warn him early in the game. However, he quickly made amends when he laid on the opening goal for Roberts. The semi-final was another good day for Shelbourne, as they beat their great rivals Shamrock Rovers, whose form in the early rounds had given some indication of what was to come in the immediate future.

Shelbourne's win gave manager Gerry Doyle his second Cup win in four years, with a League title in between, but his dedication to the task didn't always meet with the approval of his family. "The first round game against Jacobs was fixed for the same day as my daughter's wedding," he recalled, "so I had to leave the reception to attend the match. Needless to say, I wasn't very popular!"

Tommy Hamilton, who had won two Cup medals with Shamrock Rovers and had been surprisingly omitted from two other Cup final teams, got to the final in his first season with Hibernians as he had done with Rovers and he repeated that feat in 1966 with Limerick, after he had been persuaded to postpone his retirement by Ewan Fenton, Limerick's player-manager. Tommy Eglington, Hibernians' left-winger, was playing in his fourth final, having won two medals with Shamrock Rovers in the 1940s before he moved to Everton. Although in his forties, Eglington had a marvellous season and scored two great Cup goals – the winner against Dundalk when time was running out and a tremendous left-foot volley in the semi-final against Limerick.

FIRST ROUND

February 16	**JACOBS** ..... 1 Kane	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Roberts, Wilson, Dunne
February 17	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 2 Kingston 2	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Whelan
	DUNDALK ..... 2 Hasty, Redmond	**WATERFORD** 0
	LIMERICK ..... 3 F. McNamara 2, O'Connor	**HOME FARM** ..... 1 Dixon
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Mooney, Bailham, O'Connell	**CORK CELTIC** 0

	TRANSPORT ..... 5 Bailey 2, Dixon, Byrne 2	**COBH RAMBLERS** 0	

BYES: BOHEMIANS and DRUMCONDRA

SECOND ROUND

March 10	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Hasty	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 2 Eglington, O'Flynn
	LIMERICK ..... 2 O'Connor, Conroy	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 Bennett, McDonagh
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 7 Fullam, Mooney 4, O'Neill, Nolan	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Boyce, Maguire 2
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Dixon 3	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Wilson 2, Barber

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 13	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Hannigan, Hennessy	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
March 20	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Bennett	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 O'Connor, Finucane

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

April 7	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 4 Kingston 3, Eglington	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 O'Brien

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 7	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Hennessy 2	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Roberts (17m.), Bonham pen. (79m.)	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0

Shelbourne: John Heavey, Tommy Carroll, Paddy Bonham, Paddy Roberts, Freddie Strahan, Tony Corrigan, Joe Wilson, Ben Hannigan, Eric Barber, Jackie Hennessy, Ollie Conroy.

Cork Hibernians: Bobby Brohan, Jerry Lane, Jackie Morley, Tony Allen, Noel O'Mahony, Pat O'Callaghan, Mick Aherne, Tommy Hamilton, Johnny Kingston, Donie Wallace, Tommy Eglington.

Attendance: 15,000 **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 43

1964: Byrne In – Thomas Out

WHEN Shamrock Rovers beat Cork Celtic in a replay to win the 1964 Cup final they completed the Grand Slam of League, Shield, Leinster Cup and FAI Cup. It should have seen coach Sean Thomas's job secure for another few years. Instead, it meant the parting of the ways because international right-winger Frank O'Neill had been dropped for the replay, utility forward Tony Byrne taking over.

"Worried by the closeness of the first game, the directors took the amazing decision to drop Frank O'Neill for the replay," recalled Thomas. "That hurt me more than one could visualise. Frank did not have a great game in the final but his work over the season was nothing short of fantastic. He was truly the architect of many of our victories. For me, O'Neill's omission was the last straw and brought to a head my decision to leave the club. I did not have complete control over team selection but the team picked itself. However, on a couple of occasions prior to the Cup final, players had been left out of the side and, although I disagreed with the directors, it was their club and no amount of arguing from me could change their thinking. In the midst of my disillusionment Bohemians made me an offer I couldn't refuse. While I was jumping from one end of the League table to the other, I was to become my own man, with complete responsibility for all team affairs at Dalymount Park."

Fortunately for Rovers, replacement Byrne was fighting fit for his unexpected call-up. "A good friend of mine, Jim Kavanagh, gave me access to the Guinness gym and so I was doing double training – circuit training with weights which Rovers never did, as well as the usual training," he recalled. "I was mad fit for the replay even

Shamrock Rovers, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1964. From left, front row: Ronnie Nolan, Margaret Cunningham, Jackie Mooney, Joe Cunningham, Liam Tuohy (captain), Mrs. Joe Cunningham, Frank O'Neill, Tony Byrne. Second row: Billy Lord (trainer), Pat Courtney, Paddy Ambrose, Johnny Fullam, John Keogh, Pat Dunne, Tommy Farrell, Eddie Bailham, Sean Smith, Des Cunningham. Back row: Capt. Tom Scully, Arthur Cunningham, Mattie McNevin, Paul Kennedy, Sean Carroll.

though I hadn't played a lot of games that season." Byrne, who years later took a controlling interest in Rovers' traditional rivals, Shelbourne, had a good game in the 2–1 replay win.

Ronnie Nolan, the wing-half whose career at Rovers spanned the great side of 1956 as well as the 1964 side, had this to say: "The 1964 team was more effective than the 1956 team. They couldn't be knocked off their game as easily. They were more professional and could mix it better. They could overcome difficulties the 1956 team couldn't, for example, tight marking, etc. Their record was phenomenal – they played about sixty games and lost only three. The only trophy we didn't win was the Top Four – Dundalk beat us in the final." And added to their other assets, the 1964 team was prepared to defy pain in order to play as exemplified by captain Liam Tuohy who had two ribs cracked in a clash with Celtic's Ray Cowhie yet played on in terrible pain. His visit to the hospital had to wait until he had collected the Cup!

Rovers' Cup campaign had got off to a sensational start when, drawn against their nearest League rivals Dundalk in what was obviously the match of the first round, they accepted an offer to play Spain's B team in Madrid – just four days before the Cup tie! The Spaniards, who included notables such as Iribar and Ufarte, hammered Rovers 7–2 – the only time the Milltown men were outclassed that season. However, Dundalk suffered the backlash, with Rovers recording a super 7–0 Cup win.

Adding lustre to Rovers' achievements is the comment of Donal Leahy, centre-forward for defeated finalists Cork Celtic "The 1964 team was the best Celtic team ever," he claimed. It can't have helped their morale that manager Liam O'Neill, the former Cork United and Belfast Celtic star, was not in Dalymount Park for the Cup final.

FIRST ROUND

February 14	**TEK UNITED** ..... 3 Giles 2, Johnston	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 7 Dunne 2, Barber 2, Dowling 2, Boyce
	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 M. Conroy, E. Kinsella	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 J. Byrne, Bennett pen.
February 15	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 2 Noonan, Leahy	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Bates
	DROGHEDA ..... 1 McCaffrey	**GLASHEEN** 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Lynch, Cowzer	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0
	JACOBS ..... 2 Waters 2	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 J. Fitzgerald

	LIMERICK ..... 3 Doyle 2, O'Brien	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Norris
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 7 Mooney 3, Bailham 3, Ambrose	**DUNDALK** 0

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 19	**TRANSPORT** ..... 2 Bennett, Burke	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 Conroy, Burke o.g., Kearin

SECOND ROUND

March 6	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 1 Lynch	**DROGHEDA** 0
March 8	**JACOBS** ..... 2 Brennan, W. Young o.g.	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 L. Gilmore 3
	LIMERICK 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Bailham
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Hennessy	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 3 McCarthy, O'Mahony pen., Casey

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

April 5	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 2 Casey, Leahy	**BOHEMIANS** 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 5	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Tuohy	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 26	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Mooney (49m.)	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 Leahy (81m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Pat Dunne, John Keogh, Pat Courtney, Ronnie Nolan, Tommy Farrell, Johnny Fullam, Frank O'Neill, Jackie Mooney, Eddie Bailham, Paddy Ambrose, Liam 'Rasher' Tuohy.

Cork Celtic: Kevin Blount, Liam O'Flynn, Pat O'Mahony, Ray Cowhie, John Coughlan, Mick Millington, Paul O'Donovan, Austin Noonan, Donal Leahy, Al Casey, Frank McCarthy.

Attendance: 35,500 **Receipts: £5,500**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 29	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 Bailham 2 (68m. pen., 86m.)	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 Casey (75m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Tony Byrne for O'Neill. **Cork Celtic:** George Lynam for Coughlan.

Attendance: 23,600 **Receipts: £3,600.**

CHAPTER 44

1965: Mary Jane Spins a Yarn

ON HIS way to the FAI Cup semi-final between Cork Celtic and Shamrock Rovers at Flower Lodge in April, 1965, the English referee travelled on the same train as the Rovers' party. Ever one with an eye to the main chance, Mary Jane Cunningham, wife of Rovers' boss Joe Cunningham, entertained the referee with a liberal dose of Irish spirits – and graphic examples of the rough play to be expected from the Cork Celtic team! It was a typical example of gamesmanship by the formidable Mary Jane but, in the event, it proved unnecessary as winger Tony O'Connell gave Rovers the lead as early as the third minute and Celtic subsequently never played up to form. Rovers' 3–0 win was their first at the 'Lodge'.

Down through the years after the Cunninghams took over Rovers in 1936, Mary Jane, the daughter of a former Committee man, exerted a tremendous influence – some say the dominant influence – on club policy. The team was selected over a meal at the Cunningham home in Donnybrook and, rightly or wrongly, Mary Jane was given the blame when a controversial choice was made. For instance, the dropping of player-coach Jimmy Dunne for the 1942 Cup semi-final was traced to a game in Cork two weeks previously when Mary Jane's vociferous promptings caused the gentlemanly Dunne to put his fingers to his lips in admonition!

Mercenary matters were another bone of contention at Milltown right from the start of the Cunningham reign when William 'Sacky' Glen, Charlie Reid and Peadar Gaskins all left the fold after a dispute over financial terms. Here again, Mary Jane had a singleminded approach as witness her response to Eddie Bailham's late goal which

gave Rovers a 1–0 win over Limerick at the Market's Field during the 1964 Cup campaign. "Weren't we unlucky," she said, "we nearly got them to Milltown."

Rovers' Cup final opponents in 1965 were Limerick, appearing in their first final and led by Scottish player-manager Ewan Fenton, a veteran of Blackpool's win in the 1953 English FA Cup. He had bad news for his team on their train journey to Dublin for the semi-final against League champions Drumcondra. "We were told that goalkeeper Kevin Fitzpatrick was out because of 'flu," recalled Al Finucane. "That was a bad blow to us as no one gave us a chance anyway." "Our reserve goalie Eddie Connelly had gone home to Dublin but had left his boots in Limerick," recalled Fenton, "so I had to chase around for his boots when Kevin went sick. I told Eddie to report but he probably didn't know he was going to play." Connelly, who had no first team experience, played a blinder, an early save of his being particularly vital. Limerick got through 1–0 but Fitzpatrick was back for the final.

It took Rovers two games to dispose of Limerick in the final but, for most observers, the first game was marred by the tragic leg break suffered by Limerick winger Michael Doyle. "His injury was a great tragedy," said Fenton. "He was going to be one of the all-time greats in Ireland. He came through with Finucane and Fitzpatrick and he was a natural. He had so much going for him. He had two great feet." The rule allowing substitutes had just been introduced and so Denis Linnane made history when he came in for Doyle. It was a near thing, though, for in that first year subs were only allowed in the first forty-five minutes and Doyle was injured in the forty-first!

FIRST ROUND

February 10	**TEK UNITED** ..... 1 Brock	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 3 Barber, Bonham pen., Conroy
February 12	**BELGROVE** ..... 2 Sullivan, Reardon	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 Burke pen.
February 14	**DROGHEDA** ..... 1 Lynch	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 Mulvey, Mitchell
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 3 Brooks, Kingston 2	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0
	GLASHEEN 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Dunne
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Roche pen., Cheevers	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Murray pen.

	SLIGO ROVERS 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 3 McGrath 2, Masterson pen.
	WATERFORD 0	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 3 Casey 2, Noonan

SECOND ROUND

March 7	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 Groeger	**BELGROVE** ..... 1 V. O'Riordan
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Whelan	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Mulvey
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Nolan, Mooney, Caswell o.g.	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Hasty
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Hannigan	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 2 Kingston, Campbell

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 10	**BELGROVE** 0	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 Casey
March 11	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 Keogh o.g., O'Rourke	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Peyton

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 4	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Mitchell	**DRUMCONDRA** 0

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 O'Connell, Mooney, Fullam pen.	**CORK CELTIC** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 25	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Dunne (63m.)	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Mulvey (70m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Mick Smyth, John Keogh, Pat Courtney, Ronnie Nolan, Tommy Farrell, Paddy Mulligan, Frank O'Neill, Jackie Mooney, Noel Dunne, Johnny Fullam, Liam 'Rasher' Tuohy.

Limerick: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vinny Quinn, Joe Casey, Al Finucane, Ewan Fenton, Dessie McNamara, Dick O'Connor, Eddie Mulvey, Peter Mitchell, Paddy 'Ginger' O'Rourke, Mick Doyle. *Sub.:* Denis Linnane for Doyle, 41 mins.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: £5,000.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 28	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Fullam (55m.)	**LIMERICK** 0

Shamrock Rovers: Tony O'Connell for Tuohy. **Limerick:** Denis Linnane for Doyle.

Attendance: 19,436 **Receipts: £3,050.**

CHAPTER 45

1966: Tears for Finucane

THE LANEWAY at the back of the Dalymount Park stand has hosted many emotional scenes in the aftermath of Cup final day and 1966 was no exception. Heartbroken Limerick wing-half Al Finucane was in tears as he spoke to his mother and father and to the distraught Limerick fans who had gathered to console their heroes following a second successive defeat by the mighty Shamrock Rovers.

The door of the official entrance opened and the Limerick group turned to see who was coming out. Rovers' captain, Ronnie Nolan, emerged, with his kit bag in one hand and the FAI Cup in the other. He walked down to his car, opened the boot, threw in the Cup with his kit and drove home. Familiarity breeds contempt.

The Limerick fans were dumbfounded. What they had witnessed amounted practically to sacrilege. In their hearts they knew that, had it been a Limerick victory, the Cup would have returned to Shannonside in splendour, bonfires would have burned, the Cup would have been paraded through the town. The blow of defeat wasn't softened by the thought of the Cup bouncing around Nolan's boot on its way to his Kimmage home.

That moment, more than any other, sticks in Finucane's mind when he looks back to the 1966 final. It served to heighten his resolve to bring the Cup back to Limerick some day.

Finucane was the most successful Limerick player ever but he had player-manager Ewan Fenton to thank for his career in the League of Ireland. An inauspicious spell at inside-forward in his early days had led the Board of Directors to form the view that he wouldn't make the grade but Fenton persuaded them to retain him, claiming that the

experience up front would serve him well in his best position of wing-half. And so it proved, with Finucane being honoured at international and inter-League level and winning every domestic honour apart from a League medal.

Fenton's shrewdness also paid off in the semi-final replay against Sligo Rovers which was played under lights at Tolka Park. Limerick normally objected to playing under the Tolka lights but, on this occasion, knowing that Sligo centre-half David Pugh was short-sighted, they agreed to the venue – and a match plan of hitting long balls down the middle worked to Limerick's advantage.

Limerick also suffered the unusual fate of having to play their second round home tie against Dundalk at a neutral venue. Their usual home ground, the Market's Field, was unavailable because the greyhound track was being extended; the alternative venue, Thomond Park, which had been used for their first round tie with Bohemians, was also unavailable, so the game eventually went ahead at Dalymount Park, despite Dundalk's best efforts to get the game to Oriel Park.

Fenton was not despondent at Limerick's second Cup final defeat by Shamrock Rovers. "Rovers were some team," was his view, "and for us to compete and get so close was a great feat. We didn't disgrace ourselves in any way. We hadn't even got to a Cup final before 1965."

FIRST ROUND

February 11	**DALKEY UNITED** ..... 3 F. Byrne, McDonnell, Kane	**TRANSPORT** ..... 1 J. Byrne
February 13	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 McCole	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 O'Connell
	DRUMCONDRA 0	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 2 Leahy, O'Donovan
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Hasty	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Peyton
	LIMERICK ..... 3 O'Connor, McNamara, T. Hamilton pen.	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 T. O'Connor
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Burnside	**DROGHEDA** ..... 1 Gardiner
	TRAMORE ATHLETIC ..... 1 Fitzgerald	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 4 Barber, Strahan pen., Conroy, Walsh
	WATERFORD ..... 4 Lynch 3, Casey	**HOME FARM** 0

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 16	DROGHEDA ..... 1 Dunne	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Burnside, Morrisson
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Tuohy, O'Neill 2 (1 pen.)	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Allen
February 23	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Peyton pen.	DUNDALK ..... 2 Bushe, Hasty

SECOND ROUND

March 5	LIMERICK ..... 3 Finucane, O'Brien, Mulvey	DUNDALK ..... 0 (Dalymount Park)
March 6	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Byrnes	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Dunne
	DALKEY UNITED 0	WATERFORD ..... 2 O'Neill 2
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Tuohy	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Barber

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

March 9	SHELBOURNE ..... 0 (After extra time.)	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 O'Neill pen.
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Turner, Dowling, Dunne	CORK CELTIC 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 2	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Tuohy, Gilbert	WATERFORD ..... 2 Coad, Casey

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 3	LIMERICK 0	SLIGO ROVERS 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 6	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 O'Neill 2, Gilbert 2	WATERFORD ..... 2 O'Neill, McGeough

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 13	LIMERICK ..... 3 Hamilton 2, Curtin	SLIGO ROVERS 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 24	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 O'Connell (66m.), O'Neill (83m.)	LIMERICK 0

Shamrock Rovers: Mick Smyth, John Keogh, Pat Courtney, Paddy Mulligan, Ronnie Nolan, Johnny Fullam, Frank O'Neill, Brian Tyrrell, Bobby Gilbert, Tony O'Connell, Noel Hayes.

Limerick: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vinny Quinn, Joe Casey, Al Finucane, Ewan Fenton, Dessie McNamara, Dick O'Connor, Tommy Hamilton, Eddie Mulvey, Joe O'Brien, Pascal Curtin.

Attendance: 26,898 **Receipts: £5,636.**

CHAPTER 46

1967: The Fifty-bob TV Money

WHEN THE question of live television coverage of the FAI Cup final came up in 1967, delegates Bart Cummins (Saint Patrick's Athletic) and Des Cunningham (Shamrock Rovers) were keen supporters of the idea. "We felt it had to come," said Cummins. "Our concern was to propagate the game." A fee in the lower hundreds was agreed with the national television station, RTE, but the immediate effect was a practical halving of the attendance at the game, which featured the all-Dublin pairing of Cup holders Shamrock Rovers and doughty Cup fighters Saint Patrick's Athletic. Cummins and Cunningham had their moment of glory, causing quite a stir when, as Presidents of their clubs, they led out their teams, a function which it had been felt would be left to the respective managers, as was the practice in England. However, the status of League of Ireland managers was not too high in the 1960s.

For the players there was an extra bonus of £2.10.0 for TV appearance money. Rovers' striker Mick Leech, who had made his debut in the semi-final, recalled that his biggest impression after the final, which was a lacklustre affair, was the neighbours saying "We saw you on the telly." Rovers' players had other things on their minds for, after playing West Ham United in a benefit match, they departed for a seven-week stint in the United States. Still, they managed to beat Pat's 3–2.

A familiar figure was missing from Rovers line-out in the final. Ronnie Nolan was left out for the first time in almost fifteen years. Pressure of work led to difficulties with training and a resultant loss of form. He was dropped in the reshuffle for the semi-final which led

to the introduction of Mick Leech and was left out of the squad for the final. Rovers obviously thought he was finished and, the following November, he went to Bohemians as manager, a post which led to him winning a seventh FAI Cup medal.

With Rovers, Nolan had tasted success all the way but, as he recalled, he had been prepared for it: "When I joined Rovers in the early 'fifties, a lot of us had been with successful schoolboy teams and we expected success rather than hoped for it. Of the team that won the Cup in 1955, Hughie Gannon, Mickey Burke, Gerry Mackey and I all played with Johnville." In a fifteen-year career with Rovers, he won six Cup medals, four League medals, ten international caps and was a regular on the League of Ireland team for over ten years. He was versatile, too. Although most often named at right-half, he also filled in at left-full and centre-back, not just for League games, but in Cup finals.

According to ace Manchester United scout, Billy Behan, Ronnie Nolan was the best League of Ireland player never to leave Ireland. "Ronnie was the best defensive wing-half that I ever saw in the League of Ireland – he was absolutely brilliant . . . because he could read the game," said Behan.

Three times Behan was foiled in his attempt to sign Nolan for United. First, because Ronnie's father wanted him to finish his apprenticeship as a fitter; second, because acting manager Jimmy Murphy felt he couldn't sign a part-timer during United's hour of need after the Munich disaster; third, when Matt Busby, recovering from the injuries he received in Munich, was delayed a few weeks in coming over to see Nolan and, in that time, he had signed Maurice Setters. Nolan was brilliant when Busby was present, but the United manager felt he couldn't sign another right-half, although acknowledging that Ronnie was as good as Setters, if not better!

FIRST ROUND

February 12	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 3 O'Sullivan 3	**TULLAMORE** 0
	CORK CELTIC 0	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Dunne
	CORK HIBERNIANS 0	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
	DROGHEDA ..... 1 Whelan	**BRIDEWELL** ..... 1 P. O'Connor
	DUNDALK ..... 6 Stokes 3, Hale O'Connell, Hannigan	**TRAMORE ATHLETIC** ..... 1 Goggin pen.

	HOME FARM ..... 1 Morrissey o.g.	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Morrissey o.g.	**WATERFORD** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Kearin	**SHELBOURNE** 0

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 15	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Brookes 2	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 3 O'Callaghan, Connolly, Noonan
February 22	**BRIDEWELL** 0	**DROGHEDA** ..... 3 Kidd, Culligan, O'Reilly

SECOND ROUND

March 5	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**DROGHEDA** ..... 2 Gardiner, O'Reilly
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Hale	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Murphy
	LIMERICK 0	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Peyton
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Tuohy 2	**HOME FARM** ..... 1 Daly

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 8	**CORK HIBERNIANS** 0	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Callan

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 1	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Leech	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Stokes

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 2	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Bates	**DROGHEDA** 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 5	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 Dixon, Leech 2	**DUNDALK** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 O'Neill pen. (39m.), Leech (50m.), Dixon (80m.)	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Dunne (31m.), Bates (44m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Mick Smyth,. John Keogh, Pat Courtney, Johnny Fullam, Paddy Mulligan, Mick Kearin, Frank O'Neill, Billy Dixon, Bobby Gilbert, Mick Leech, Tommy Kinsella.

St. Patrick's Athletic: Dinny Lowry, Paddy Dowling, Vinny O'Reilly, Willie Roche, Doug Boucher, Jackie Hennessy, Gerry Monaghan, Noel Dunne, Noel Bates, Johnny Campbell, Willie Peyton.

Attendance: 12,000 (approx.) **Receipts: Not available.**

CHAPTER 47

Mick Leech

1968: The Greaves of Irish Soccer

BY the time he was twenty-one, Shamrock Rovers' goalscorer Mick Leech had won three FAI Cup medals – and he had scored in each final. He was undoubtedly the key man in Rovers' triumphs of 1967, 1968 and 1969. He made his Cup debut in the 1967 semi-final against Dundalk and only played a total of nine Cup games from then until the 1969 final replay, yet his goal tally was an impressive fourteen. No wonder he was dubbed 'the Jimmy Greaves of Irish soccer'!

Perhaps the most memorable of those Cup campaigns was that of 1968 when a young Rovers team got through to a final meeting with League champions Waterford. Rovers were hoping to equal the five-in-a-row Cup success of their predecessors in the 1930s but Waterford had been so impressive in the League that they were made favourites. Rovers triumphed, thanks to sweeper Johnny Fullam and ace opportunist Leech. Manager Liam Tuohy considered centre-half Frank Brady – an older brother of Republic of Ireland midfielder Liam – too inexperienced for the task of marking Waterford danger-man Mick Lynch so he experimented with Fullam as a sweeper for the first time. The classy Fullam did a perfect job in marshalling his defence to cancel out the threat of the free-scoring Waterford forward line.

Leech, who missed the first two rounds of the Cup through injury, scored two in the semi-final to put paid to Dundalk and gave a repeat performance to scupper Waterford's hopes of the double in the final. His second goal was a classic, with Leech calmly taking the ball round the despairing dive of Peter Thomas and pushing it into the net. "There were only about two minutes to go," recalled Leech. "As I

was coming out Peter was sitting there dejectedly and I patted him on the head and said, 'Hard luck, Thommo, there's always next year'." Little did either player know that it would take Thomas twelve years to win that elusive Cup medal.

Another Rovers youngster, Mick Lawlor, son of the former Drumcondra and Republic of Ireland forward, 'Kit' Lawlor, weighed in with a goal in each round of the Cup. 'Kit' had won a medal with Drums in 1957, but Mick did a lot better, winning four medals – two each with Rovers and Dundalk.

Leech, whose philosophy was "the ball has just got to cross the line," was noted for his quicksilver anticipation in the penalty area and scored most of his goals in or around the six-yard box. "I never got the jitters before Cup finals or internationals," he said. "In fact, I enjoyed playing before big crowds. I reacted to the atmosphere." In 1968, the Cup final attendance was over 39,000, the second highest ever.

In 1969 Leech missed Rovers' semi-final games with Shelbourne as he had damaged knee ligaments. "My first match back was the final against Cork Celtic," he recalled. "I got a big injection in my knee to get me ready but the hard ground didn't suit me and I was so bad I was taken off. Three days later it was touch and go if I played but it rained, Liam Tuohy put me in and I scored twice. Tuohy left after that final and for me Rovers was never the same after. He had been a tremendous influence on me. He was the best."

Leech and Tuohy teamed up again in Brazil in 1972 when Tuohy was manager of the Republic of Ireland team in a mini-World Cup tournament. Once again, Tuohy brought the best out of Leech, who scored two goals in four games and was named in the best XI from Ireland's Group. Paddy Mulligan was the only other Irishman in a 4–2–4 line-up which included the great Portuguese forward Eusebio.

FIRST ROUND

February 11	**ATHLONE TOWN** 0	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Conroy, O'Connor
	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 J. Doran	**LIMERICK** ..... 2 J. Murphy, McEvoy
	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 3 Fogarty 2, McSweeney	**DRUMCONDRA** ..... 4 Hand 2, Brohan o.g., Whelan
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Lawlor, P. O'Mahony o.g.	**CORK CELTIC** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Holden	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Hannigan

	TRAMORE ATHLETIC 0	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 Dunne, Bates, Ryan
	WATERFORD ..... 1 J. O'Neill	DROGHEDA 0
February 14	ST. BRENDAN'S ..... 1 James o.g.	HOME FARM ..... 3 Duffy, McDonnell o.g., Fullam o.g.

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 15	DUNDALK ..... 4 Hannigan, Hale 2, Burke	SLIGO ROVERS 0

SECOND ROUND

March 3	DUNDALK ..... 1 Murray pen.	LIMERICK 0
	HOME FARM ..... 1 Daly	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Hand pen., Morrissey
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Lawlor	SHELBOURNE 0
	WATERFORD ..... 6 McGeough, Matthews 2, Lynch 2, O'Neill pen.	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

March 30	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Leech 2, Lawlor	DUNDALK 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31	WATERFORD ..... 2 O'Neill, Hale	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Hand pen.

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Leech 2 (64m., 89m.), Lawlor (69m.)	WATERFORD 0

Shamrock Rovers: Mick Smyth, Jimmy Gregg, Pat Courtney, Mick Kearin, Frank Brady, Johnny Fullam, Frank O'Neill, Mick Lawlor, Bobby Gilbert, Mick Leech, Damien Richardson.

Waterford: Peter Thomas, Peter Byran, Paul Morrissey, Vinny Maguire, Jackie Morley, Jimmy McGeough, John O'Neill, Alfie Hale, Mick Lynch, Shamie Coad, Johnny Matthews.

Attendance: 39,128 **Receipts: £8,500.**

CHAPTER 48

Donal Leahy

1969: Leahy Drowns His Sorrows

AFTER fifteen years and two FAI Cup finals but no winner's medal, 1969 was the year when Cork Celtic centre-forward Donal Leahy finally got his hands on the Cup – and received a winner's medal as well.

The 1968-69 season saw Leahy phasing out his own involvement and taking charge of Celtic's reserve team. However, when Cup-time came around, player-manager Billy McCullough, the former Arsenal and Northern Ireland centre-half, persuaded Leahy to make a comeback as the attack was in need of a spearhead. After a couple of League games in which he came on as sub, Leahy lined out in the first round tie against Drumcondra – and scored the winner.

Saint Patrick's Athletic were disposed of in the second round, and then Celtic were faced with a four-game marathon semi-final against Limerick, in which the dice were eventually loaded in Celtic's favour. The first game was in Cork, the second in Limerick, the third in Cork, but the fourth was in Tolka Park, with the Limerick camp justifiably claiming a raw deal. There was only one goal between the teams in the end – and Leahy supplied it again.

The final was another heartbreak for Leahy and his Celtic team-mates. Leading 1–0 for most of the game through a John Carroll goal, time was running out on an ineffective Shamrock Rovers when the Cup holders got a stroke of luck. Paddy Mulligan tried a header which appeared to be going wide when Celtic right-full, John Keogh, a former Rovers' player, deflected it into his own goal. Some of the Celtic players were so convinced they had blown their chance that they stayed in Dublin overnight and had a boozing session! One of

the features of the game had been centre-back Eamon Heffernan's dominance of Rovers' ace marksman Mick Leech. For the replay manager Liam Tuohy introduced Damien Richardson on Heffernan and put Leech on McCullough. Cork fell for it and Leech took McCullough to the cleaners.

After the game, a disconsolate but ever sporting Leahy went to the Rovers' dressing-room to invite the players to Celtic's function in the North Star Hotel as Rovers had had their function on the Sunday. To his dismay he found the players were all gone – but the Cup was still there, in the company of one official. So Leahy brought the Cup to Celtic's party, club officials filled it and the players drowned their sorrows from it!

Later they were joined by some of the Rovers players and Leahy, in conversation with Johnny Fullam, a friend from many inter-League trips, remarked how disappointed he was after fifteen years in football to have no Cup medal, just two runners-up. Fullam said nothing but shortly after in the post Leahy received one of the Dubliner's medals with the request that one of Leahy's runners-up medals be sent in return. A nice gesture from one of the greats of League of Ireland football to another great who hadn't got all he deserved from the game. In fact, Leahy's career suffered because he was based in Cork at a time when the power base was solidly in Dublin. Drumcondra boss Sam Prole tried to woo Leahy to Dublin – and guaranteed him an international cap if he signed. Prole was an international selector at the time. Leahy, who had been in three World Cup squads without making even one appearance as a sub, declined Prole's offer.

FIRST ROUND

February 7	SHELBOURNE 0	TRANSPORT 0
February 9	DRUMCONDRA 0	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Leahy
	JACOBS 0	RINGMAHON RANGERS 0
	LIMERICK ..... 2 O'Brien, McEvoy	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Sheehan
	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 2 Hogan, Bermingham	SLIGO ROVERS 0
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 MacDonnell, Campbell 2 (1 pen.)	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Hamill
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Richardson, Leech 2	DUNDALK 0
	WATERFORD ..... 5 Matthews 2, Hale 2, Buck	DROGHEDA ..... 2 Whelan, Ennis

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 12	TRANSPORT ..... 2 Cowzer, Boyce	SHELBOURNE ..... 3 Delargy 2, Dempsey
February 15	RINGMAHON RANGERS . 3 Coleman, Gosnell 2	JACOBS ..... 1 Keogh

SECOND ROUND

March 2	CORK CELTIC ..... 2 Calnan, O'Mahony pen.	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Brady
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Mitchell	WATERFORD 0
	LONGFORD TOWN 0	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Delargy pen., Murray
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Leech 2, Richardson, O'Neill	RINGMAHON RANGERS . 0

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

March 30	LIMERICK ..... 1 Bartley	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Calnan

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 O'Neill pen.	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Campbell

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 2	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Lawlor	SHELBOURNE 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: THOMOND PARK

April 3	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 McCarthy	LIMERICK ..... 1 McEvoy
	(After extra time.)	

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: FLOWER LODGE

April 10	CORK CELTIC 0	LIMERICK 0

SEMI-FINAL THIRD REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 15	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Leahy	LIMERICK 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Keogh o.g. (82m.)	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Carroll (27m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Mick Smyth, Christy Canavan, Pat Courtney, Paddy Mulligan, David Pugh, Mick Kearin, Frank O'Neill, Ben Hannigan, Mick Leech, Mick Lawlor, Tom Kinsella. *Sub.:* Hugh Brophy for Leech, 79 mins.

Cork Celtic: Tommy Taylor, John Keogh, Pat O'Mahony, Liam Ronayne, Eamonn Heffernan, Billy McCullough, Paddy Shortt, John Carroll, Donal Leahy, Les Wilson, Frank McCarthy.

Attendance: 28,000 **Receipts: £6,900.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 4 Leech 2 (33m., 40m.), Kearin (53m.), Richardson (59m.)	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 McCarthy (54m.)	

Shamrock Rovers: Damien Richardson for Hannigan; Hugh Brophy for Kinsella.
Cork Celtic: Unchanged.

Attendance: 18,000 **Receipts: £5,000.**

CHAPTER 49

1970: O'Connell Pays a Dividend

AFTER seventy-nine years as the standard-bearers of amateur football in Ireland, Bohemians finally made the big decision to turn professional in March, 1969. Manager Sean Thomas, in his second spell with the Dalymount club, had a stroke of luck when winger Tony O'Connell, unhappy at Dundalk, bought out his own contract and became Bohemians' first professional on March 11. Saint Patrick's Athletic goalkeeper Dinny Lowry signed on a free transfer on March 13. O'Connell and Lowry played without pay for Bohemians for the last five games of the 1968-69 season as the club's articles of association were not altered to permit payment until the annual general meeting in May. However, the move to Dalymount gave both O'Connell and Lowry a new lease of life.

Lowry had won international and inter-League honours and two Cup medals with Saint Patrick's Athletic but was regarded as a veteran, while O'Connell had won inter-League honours and three Cup medals with Shamrock Rovers before moving to Dundalk where he had won a League medal, an international cap and further inter-League honours. O'Connell also had a successful spell in North America in 1963-64 where he had Malcolm Allison as his manager and Tony Book, later to make his name with Manchester City under Allison, as a teammate.

Despite additional signings like Johnny Fullam from Shamrock Rovers, Tommy Kelly from Boston and Ben O'Sullivan from Derry City, Bohemians made a bad start to their first League campaign as professionals. Out of contention for everything bar the FAI Cup, manager Thomas signed left-winger Mick Kelly from Manchester

Bohemians, 1970. From left, front row: John Conway, Tommy Hamill, Fran Swan, Johnny Fullam, Tony O'Connell, Tommy Kelly. Back row: Mick Kelly, Ronnie Nolan, David Parkes, Dinny Lowry, John Doran, Andy McSwiney. Missing: Ben O'Sullivan and Jackie Clarke [Irish Independent].

United and moved O'Connell to centre-forward. Ronnie Nolan also agreed to come out of retirement and took his place at centre-back alongside Fullam. It proved a winning combination. From a team struggling at the foot of the table, Bohemians climbed to safety and clinched the Cup thanks to a three-month unbeaten run.

Luck played its part in the Cup, as Bohemians' longest journey was to Tolka Park to play Dundalk in the semi-final. "Our travelling expenses for the entire tournament amounted to 7/6," recalled Sean Thomas, who added, "Without wishing to detract from our own players' performance, in each of the first two rounds we were helped by the early dismissal of a player from the opposing side." In both instances, Tony O'Connell was the central figure. Cork Celtic goalkeeper Alex Ludzic was sent off for kicking him in the first round and Shelbourne centre-half Brendan Place got his marching orders for a similar offence in the second round.

The Shelbourne game took place on a busy week-end for O'Connell. "I was manager of the Irish schoolboys team and we played England in Sheffield on the Saturday," he recalled. "It was a 24-hour journey, leaving Dublin on Friday at 8.00 and not arriving at our hotel until 4.30 on Saturday with the kick-off at 7.00. We were stuck in the train for about four hours. No wonder we lost 11–0. I flew back the following day for the game against Shels."

The final against Sligo Rovers proved a marathon affair, requiring three games before Bohemians came out on top 2–1, with O'Connell striking a beautiful winning goal after charging down an attempted clearance by Sligo player-manager Ken Turner. The club's first professional couldn't have paid a more welcome dividend. O'Connell got a nice bonus when his good form with Bohs was rewarded by international manager Mick Meagan and he won his second cap in September 1970 against Poland. He retired after the Cup holders were beaten by Limerick in a second round replay in March 1971.

FIRST ROUND

January 28	**RIALTO**	0		**HOME FARM**	0
January 30	**DRUMCONDRA**	0		**ATHLONE TOWN**	2
				Mooney 2	
February 1	**BOHEMIANS**	1		**CORK CELTIC**	0
	O'Connell				
	DROGHEDA	0		**CORK HIBERNIANS**	0
	FINN HARPS	1		**DUNDALK**	1
	Bradley			Turner	

(Abandoned: 57 minutes.)

	LIMERICK ..... 5 Doran, Finucane, Turner o.g., Joe O'Mahony, Leahy		T.E.K. UNITED 0	
	RINGMAHON RANGERS 0		WATERFORD ..... 7 Power, Dunne 2, O'Neill, Hale 2, Matthews	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Pugh 2 pens., Wilson	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Barber		SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Place, Delargy	

FIRST ROUND RE-FIXTURE

February 11	FINN HARPS ..... 1 McDermott		DUNDALK ..... 1 Turner	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 4	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Wigginton		DROGHEDA 0	
	HOME FARM ..... 1 Daly		RIALTO ..... 2 Campbell, Farrell	
February 25	DUNDALK ..... 4 Murray 2 (1 pen.), Bartley, Turner		FINN HARPS 0	

SECOND ROUND

February 12	WATERFORD ..... 2 Matthews 2 (1 pen.)		LIMERICK ..... 2 McEvoy 2 (1 pen.)	

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

February 19	LIMERICK 0		WATERFORD ..... 1 Matthews	

THIRD ROUND

March 8	ATHLONE TOWN 0		DUNDALK 0	
	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 T. Kelly		SHELBOURNE 0	
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 4 Brookes, Pugh, Wilson, Mitchell		RIALTO 0	
	WATERFORD ..... 1 Casey		CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Wigginton, Lawson	

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 12	DUNDALK ..... 2 Ennis o.g., Brennan		ATHLONE TOWN 0	

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

March 28	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 O'Sullivan		DUNDALK 0	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 29	CORK HIBERNIANS 0		SLIGO ROVERS 0	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 1	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Brookes, Mitchell		CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Davenport pen.	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 19	BOHEMIANS 0		SLIGO ROVERS 0	

Bohemians: Dinny Lowry, John Doran, Johnny Fullam, Ronnie Nolan, David Parkes, John Conway, Tommy Kelly, Fran Swan, Tony O'Connell, Tommy Hamill, Mick Kelly.

Sligo Rovers: Tom Lally, Ken Turner, Kevin Fallon, David Pugh, Tony Stenson, Tony Burns, Pat McCluskey, Tony Fagan, John Cooke, Gerry Mitchell, Johnny Brookes.

Attendance: 16,000 **Receipts: £6,000.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	BOHEMIANS 0		SLIGO ROVERS 0	

(Both teams unchanged.)

Attendance: 11,000 **Receipts: £4,500.**

FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

May 3	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Fullam (49m.), O'Connell (62m.)		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Cooke (15m.)	

Both teams unchanged. *Substitutes* – **Bohemians:** Ben O'Sullivan and Jackie Clarke for Conway and M. Kelly, 45 mins. **Sligo Rovers:** Dick McKiernan for Stenson, 12 mins.

Attendance: 22,000 **Receipts: £9,000.**

CHAPTER 50

1971: A Medal for McEvoy

DOWN IN Limerick they reckon Andy McEvoy was the most skilful player they ever had – and also the shyest. Football was McEvoy's livelihood for ten years while he was with Blackburn Rovers but he never became accustomed to the adulation his talent provoked.

He scored a goal of such brilliance in a League game at Kilcohan Park that the Waterford crowd applauded him for a full three minutes while the game was in progress. His teammates recall that McEvoy practically cringed with embarrassment! He was also fond of juggling with the ball in training but if he felt that he had an audience he promptly kicked the ball away.

He left his native Bray at the age of eighteen to join Blackburn Rovers, then managed by Jackie Carey. After a settling in period of about four years he blossomed into one of the most prolific goalscorers in the English First Division, topped only by Jimmy Greaves. However, life in England held little appeal for him and when his wife inherited a farm in Kilmihil, County Clare, he let it be known that he was anxious to return home. Limerick director Jack Tuohy jumped in ahead of the posse and secured the Republic of Ireland striker on the understanding that if he returned to England he would again become a Blackburn's player.

One of McEvoy's greatest assets was his ability to place the ball in which ever part of the goal he wanted. In training one day he demonstrated a free kick routine whereby the ball was played off the bar for an inrushing forward to finish it off. Three times in succession he hit the bar. Strange to relate, it was a routine he never tried in a match. However, he was quick to spot what was on in a free kick

Limerick 1971. From left, back row: J. Touhy (secretary), W. Flaherty (trainer), Hughie Hamilton, Richie Hall, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony, Tony Meaney, Seamus Coad, M. K. Wallace (chairman), Ewan Fenton (manager). Front row: W. Higgins (director), Sean Byrnes, Joe Bourke, Al Finucane (captain), Paddy Shortt, Andy McEvoy, Dave Barrett.

situation as Bohemians found to their cost in this year's second round tie.

"We were winning 2–1 in the second half but finding it a hard slog to get up the field against the elements," recalls Joe O'Mahony. "We finally got a free on the edge of their penalty area, Andy said to me, 'roll it here' and bang – that was it – 3–1 and the game was over. He saw the gap and that was enough for him."

Limerick's win in the final gave McEvoy his first medal and he achieved it with practically no training as manager Ewan Fenton recalled: "Andy had a problem training because his job took him all around the country delivering Guinness. He was never available, which was difficult because all the other lads were as keen as mustard, but I couldn't leave him out of the side. He was so good he should never have left English football."

Fenton completed a unique double when leading Limerick to victory, for the previous year he had managed Linfield when they won the IFA Cup. In a three-year spell with the Belfast club, he won the Irish League title in 1968–69, apart from the 1970 Cup win.

The manager was involved in a selection controversy before the final against Drogheda when he was under pressure to choose Scottish forward Hugh Hamilton ahead of Englishman Dave Barrett. However, he stuck to his guns, Barrett got the all-important lead goal in the replay and when he introduced Hamilton at half-time, the Scot responded with another two to clinch an historic first Cup victory for Limerick.

So great was the enthusiasm in the city that, even though the rain never let up,there was a greater crowd at the railway station to greet the players on their return than was at the match. The crush of people caused two huge concrete pillars to be knocked over and the crowds swarmed on to the railway tracks. As a result, the driver refused to bring the train into the station and the players had to walk the last three miles!

FIRST ROUND

February 6	**TRANSPORT** 0	**DROGHEDA** ..... 3 Conroy pen., McEwan, Verity
February 7	**ATHLONE TOWN** 0	**WATERFORD** ..... 6 McMahon 3 (1 pen.), Hale 2, Matthews
	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Dunne 2	**DRUMCONDRA** 0
	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Davenport, Wigginton	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 McKeever
	LIMERICK ..... 1 Hamilton	**SHELBOURNE** 0
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 O'Connor 2	**BLUEBELL UNITED** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Leech	**CORK CELTIC** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Pugh, Fagan, Mitchell	**TULLAMORE** ..... 1 Geraghty pen.
	T.E.K. UNITED ..... 1 Fogarty pen.	**FINN HARPS** ..... 5 Bradley 3 (1 pen.), Coyle, Gaston

SECOND ROUND

February 24	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Marsden	**WATERFORD** 0

THIRD ROUND

March 14	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 2 Connolly, Marsden	**FINN HARPS** ..... 2 Bradley 2
	LIMERICK 0	**BOHEMIANS** 0
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Martin, Richardson	**DROGHEDA** ..... 5 Cullen 3, Conroy, Whelan
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Mitchell	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 O'Connor, Murray pen.

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

March 17	**BOHEMIANS** 0	**LIMERICK** 0
	(Abandoned: 45 minutes.)	
	FINN HARPS ..... 1 Nicholl	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 1 Marsden
	(After extra time.)	

THIRD ROUND RE-FIXTURE

March 23	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 O'Connell	**LIMERICK** ..... 3 Hamilton 2, McEvoy

THIRD ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 24	**CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 5 Wigginton, Dennehy, Young 2, Marsden	**FINN HARPS** 0

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

March 27 — **LIMERICK** ..... 1 — **ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0
Meaney

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 28 — **CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 0 — **DROGHEDA** 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 7 — **DROGHEDA** ..... 2 — **CORK HIBERNIANS** 1
Shawcross pen., McEwan — Young

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 18 — **LIMERICK** ..... 0 — **DROGHEDA** 0

Limerick: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe Bourke, Richie Hall, Al Finucane, Sean Byrnes, Joe O'Mahony, Shamie Coad, Andy McEvoy, Paddy Shortt, David Barrett, Tony Meaney. *Sub.:* Hugh Hamilton for Coad, 62 mins.

Drogheda: Cecil Baxter, Paddy Dowling, Mick Meagan, Dave Shawcross, Dick Jacenuik, Andy McSwiney, Mick Cooke, Frank McEwan, Ronnie Whelan, Pat Cullen, Mick Fairclough. *Sub.:* Mick Conroy for Fairclough, 77 mins.

Attendance: 16,000 — **Receipts: £6,000.**

FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21 — **LIMERICK** ..... 3 — **DROGHEDA** 0
Barrett (51m.),
Hamilton 2 (79m., 83m.)

Limerick: Unchanged. *Sub.:* Hugh Hamilton for Bourke, 45 mins. **Drogheda:** Mick Conroy for Fairclough. *Sub.:* Fairclough for Whelan, 62 mins.

Attendance: 15,000 — **Receipts: £5,800.**

CHAPTER 51

1972: McMenemy's Gift

DAVE BACUZZI, the former Arsenal, Manchester City and Reading full-back, didn't know what to expect when he was appointed manager of Cork Hibernians. Coming straight from a full-time set-up, he discovered Hibs were a half-way measure with about six full-time professionals training in the mornings and the part-timers training at night. In League of Ireland terms it was a good set-up but one which, because of the outlay, needed to be successful.

Appointed in 1970, when Cup-time drew near at the end of the year, Bacuzzi got on to Doncaster Rovers' manager Lawrie McMenemy looking for players. McMenemy was preparing for a second round English Cup tie and if Doncaster lost he would be trimming the wage bill. They lost, so Bacuzzi got on again and spoke to four players McMenemy was prepared to release. Only one, striker Tony Marsden, was prepared to leave England. He went to Cork on a month's trial and scored a goal a game. "At the end of the month I got back on to Lawrie and asked him about Marsden," recalled Bacuzzi. "I didn't want to boost him up too much but I could have dropped through the floor when he said he was free." Hibs went on to win the League title in Bacuzzi's first season.

Marsden scored three important Cup goals in 1971, when Hibs made a brave bid for the double, losing to Drogheda in a semi-final replay. The following season, with one of Bacuzzi's home grown products alongside Marsden, Hibs recorded their first Cup success.

Miah Dennehy had played mainly in Hibs' reserves as a winger in Bacuzzi's first season and he wasn't a very confident player. Tried up front, he began to score regularly, revelling in a free role and earning

a first team place. He scored two of the goals with which Hibs beat Shamrock Rovers in the play-off for the League title in 1970–71, Marsden getting the other. "Miah's main assets were stamina and speed," said Bacuzzi. "He was the fittest player I ever came across at any club. We played with three up front – Marsden, Dave Wigginton and Dennehy – and they were the fittest players in the club. Our policy was to put the ball into space for them to run on to and cause havoc."

Hibs and Waterford were the two top teams in the League of Ireland in1971–72 and the League race boiled down to a last match meeting between the two at Flower Lodge. Hibs, two points behind, needed to win to force a play-off. The game was played a week before the Cup final for which both teams had qualified.

"We lost 3–2 after leading 2–0 with eleven minutes to go before a record Cork crowd of over 25,000," recalled Bacuzzi. "I went home seething and went straight to bed, barely grunting at my in-laws who had just arrived! We got it out of our systems at training in the Quarry on Tuesday night and then looked forward to Sunday."

Cup final day turned out to be Dennehy's day, as the blond striker hit a hat-trick – the first ever in an FAI Cup final – to end Waterford hopes of the double. By the time the Cup came around again in 1973, Dennehy had been transferred to Nottingham Forest. He was also a Republic of Ireland international. In the space of a couple of years he had made a big impact on Irish soccer. In contrast Hibs' centre-back Noel O'Mahony had thirteen years' League experience before he won his Cup medal.

FIRST ROUND

February 13	C.Y.M. 0	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Davenport
	DROGHEDA ..... 3 Buck, Cooke, Cullen	T.E.K. UNITED 0
	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 Place, Martin pen.	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Conlon, Gallagher
	LIMERICK ..... 3 McGlynn o.g., Meaney, McEvoy	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Mooney
	LONGFORD TOWN 0	DUNDALK ..... 3 Rogers, Turner, Kelly
	RIALTO ..... 1 Dempsey (At Kilcohan Park)	WATERFORD ..... 11 Hale 5 (1 pen.), Kirby 3, Matthews, Humphries 2

	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Murray, Burkett	FINN HARPS ..... 1 Bradley
	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	ATHLONE TOWN 0
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 McNaughton	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Wigginton, Marsden

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 16	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Campbell	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Hamill
February 17	ATHLONE TOWN 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 5 Martin 2, Lawlor, Richardson, Quinn o.g.

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 23	DRUMCONDRA ..... 2 McArdle, Martin pen.	SLIGO ROVERS 0

SECOND ROUND

March 1	DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 Martin	CORK CELTIC 0

THIRD ROUND

March 12	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 6 Dennehy 3, Bacuzzi, Wigginton, Marsden pen.	DRUMCONDRA 0
	DROGHEDA ..... 2 Cullen 2	WATERFORD ..... 4 Humphries 2, O'Neill, House
	LIMERICK 0	DUNDALK 0
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Murray	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 17	DUNDALK ..... 1 Rogers	LIMERICK ..... 1 Finucane

THIRD ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 22	DUNDALK ..... 2 O'Connor, Rogers	LIMERICK ..... 1 McEvoy

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 8	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Sweeney	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0
April 9	WATERFORD ..... 4 O'Neill 2, B. McConville o.g., Kirby	DUNDALK ..... 2 Turner 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 23 **CORK HIBERNIANS** ..... 3 **WATERFORD** 0
Dennehy 3 (65m., 70m., 83m.)

Cork Hibernians: Joe Grady, Dave Bacuzzi, Noel O'Mahony, Martin Sheehan, John Herrick, John Lawson, 'Sonny' Sweeney, Gerry Finnegan, Tony Marsden, Dave Wigginton, Miah Dennehy.

Waterford: Peter Thomas, Peter Bryan, Tony Cottle, Jackie Morley, Vinny Maguire, John O'Neill, Jimmy McGeough, Johnny Matthews, Alfie Hale, Dave Kirby, Carl Humphries.

Attendance: 22,500 **Receipts: £8,500.**

It's a Record

- The Cork United–Bohemians replay in 1947 attracted only 5,519 spectators.
- Three players have been sent off in Cup finals: Owen Madden (Cork United) and Jackie O'Driscoll (Waterford) in 1941, and Eric Barber (Shelbourne) in 1973.

CHAPTER 52

1973: FAI Insensitivity

THE insensitivity of FAI officialdom to the needs of players was never better illustrated than during the 1973 Cup campaign. By sticking rigidly to the dates set for second round and quarter-final ties they effectively killed off Shamrock Rovers' chances. Rovers, who had proved their Cup mettle in the first round by coming out on top against Dundalk after three games, needed a further four games to see off the challenge of Athlone Town in the second round. The last three games were played on consecutive days and involved periods of extra time. When the tie was finally decided it left Rovers with just two days to prepare for a quarter-final tie away to Limerick! The FAI, obviously taking no account of the fact that the game in Ireland is part-time, turned down Rovers' appeal for a postponement. Rovers – minus three of their regular back four following the Athlone marathon – went down gallantly at the Market's Field but justice was not seen to be done. Rovers, who didn't even reach the semi-final, played eight Cup-ties in the space of three weeks. Cork Hibernians, who won the Cup, needed only six games to do so, spread over a ten-week period.

Hibernians became the only team apart from Rovers to retain the FAI Cup when they beat Shelbourne 1–0 in a final replay, which was played at Flower Lodge, the first time the final was played outside Dublin. A wet day restricted the crowd to 11,000, making the occasion a bit of an anti-climax. "We had won everything in the space of three seasons and the crowd had become too used to success," said centre-half Noel O'Mahony. "The place to win the Cup was in Dalymount Park." In their two Cup-winning campaigns, Hibernians

conceded only two goals, one in the first round in 1972 to Shelbourne and one in the first round in 1973 to non-League Rialto. Only two Cork-born players, O'Mahony and fellow centre-half Martin Sheehan, played in both finals.

O'Mahony, whose brother Declan was goalkeeper in 1973, was a very relieved man when Carl Humphries shot the winning goal in the replay. "I had stuck my head where I shouldn't early on and got a boot for my trouble," he recalled. "I got a few stitches in it and came back to watch the last 20 minutes, but if it had gone to a third match I wouldn't have made it." Between playing for Cork Hibs and managing Cork Alberts, O'Mahony was involved in six semi-finals during the 1970s but, apart from 1972 and 1973, success eluded him. More fortunate was Denis Allen who got into the team when Miah Dennehy was transferred to Nottingham Forest just before the 1973 Cup started.

Hibernians, who had four full-time professionals in their side – two less than in 1972 – had to overcome a Shelbourne team which was badly hit by injuries following a very tough game in Ballybofey against League runners-up Finn Harps. "We were plagued with injuries following that League game," said manager Gerry Doyle. "We lost Paddy Dunning; Billy Newman had to go up to Bobby McGregor in Belfast for treatment and Tony McDonnell and Paul McNaughton had to take tests before the replay." Left-back Ray O'Brien was another player who suffered rough treatment, something which he had a special reason to avoid as, like Tony Dunne in 1960, he was Manchester United-bound as soon as the Cup final was over. Despite injury problems and the sending-off of striker Eric Barber, Shelbourne made it tough for Hibernians, who had to endure some nail-biting moments after Humphries had scored. "In those last minutes as Shelbourne put on the pressure we just gave the ball to Humphries," recalled player-manager Dave Bacuzzi. "He was so skilful at retaining possession they couldn't get it off him."

FIRST ROUND

February 16	HOME FARM–DRUMCONDRA ..... 1 O'Grady	DALKEY UNITED ..... 2 Byrne, Wildes
February 18	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 3 Sheehan, Wigginton 2	RIALTO ..... 1 Norton
	DROGHEDA 0	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 O'Connor, Turner
	FINN HARPS ..... 1 Minnock o.g.	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Parke

	LIMERICK ..... 2 Marlowe 2	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Moore
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Leech	DUNDALK ..... 1 Kavanagh
	SHELBOURNE ..... 4 Barber, McKenna, Rogers, McNaughton	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0
	SWILLY ROVERS ..... 2 Ludzic o.g., Cassidy	CORK CELTIC ..... 2 O'Neill, McCarthy
	WATERFORD ..... 3 Parr, Matthews pen., Hale	WEMBLEY ROVERS ..... 1 Long pen.

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 21	CORK CELTIC ..... 6 O'Neill 4, Brooks, Ludzic pen.	SWILLY ROVERS 0
February 22	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Parke	FINN HARPS 0
	DUNDALK 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 26	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Lawlor, Leech, Daly	DUNDALK 0

SECOND ROUND

March 1	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Parke	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Daly

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 7	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	ATHLONE TOWN 0

(After extra time.)

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 8	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	ATHLONE TOWN 0

(After two periods of extra time.)

SECOND ROUND THIRD REPLAY

March 9	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Davis 2, Lawlor	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Wood

THIRD ROUND

March 11	CORK CELTIC ..... 3 Kelly o.g., Notley, McKenna	BOHEMIANS 0
	CORK HIBERNIANS 0	WATERFORD 0

	LIMERICK ..... 1 Kennedy	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	
	SHELBOURNE 0	DALKEY UNITED 0	

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

March 14	DALKEY UNITED 0	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Hannigan
March 15	WATERFORD 0	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Lawson 2 (1 pen.)

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

April 1	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Lawson pen., Coyne	LIMERICK 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 1	SHELBOURNE 0	CORK CELTIC 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: FLOWER LODGE

April 4	CORK CELTIC ..... 2 Carroll, Brooks	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 R. Mulhall 2

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 11	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Hannigan	CORK CELTIC 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	CORK HIBERNIANS 0	SHELBOURNE 0

Cork Hibernians: Declan O'Mahony, Dave Bacuzzi, Noel O'Mahony, Martin Sheehan, John Brohan, –. 'Sonny' Sweeney, John Lawson, Denis Allen, Dave Wigginton, Carl Humphries, Gerry Coyne.

Shelbourne: Paddy Roche, Mick Gannon, Brendan Roche, Tony McDonnell, Ray O'Brien, Billy Newman, John Rogers, Ben Hannigan, Vinny McKenna, Paul McNaughton, Eric Barber. *Sub.:* Paddy Mulhall for McDonnell, 19 mins.

Attendance: 12,500 **Receipts: £6,500.**

FINAL REPLAY: FLOWER LODGE, CORK

April 29	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Humphries (83m.)	SHELBOURNE 0

Cork Hibernians: Unchanged. *Sub.:* Frank Connolly for N. O'Mahony, 20 mins.
Shelbourne: Unchanged. *Subs.:* Paddy Dunning for Rogers, 59 mins.; Shay Doyle for Newman, 59 mins.

Attendance: 11,000 **Receipts: £6,300.**

CHAPTER 53

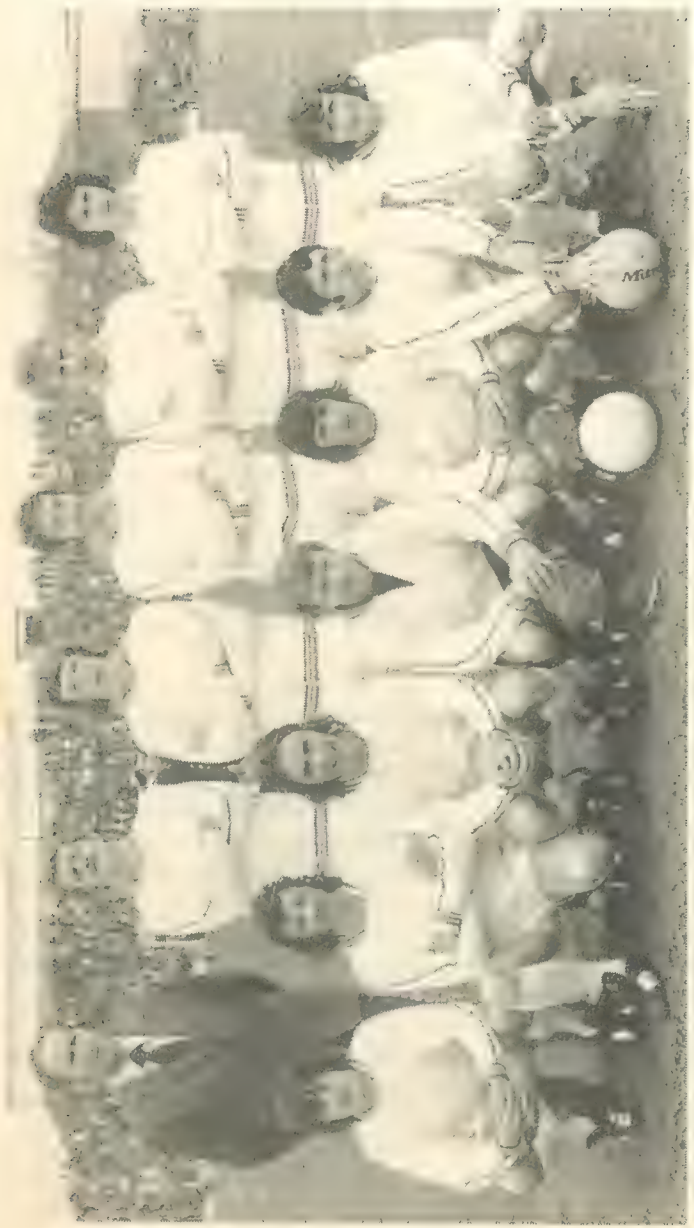
1974: Harps' £100-a-Head Ace

FINN HARPS' success in the FAI Cup in 1974 was a personal triumph for chairman Fran Fields and manager Patsy McGowan, who had guided the Donegal club into the League of Ireland from junior ranks in 1969. Fields, however, gave the credit for Harps' success to the club's costliest signing, Northern Ireland international, Tony O'Doherty.

"Tony hadn't kicked a ball for two months because of a groin injury but we kept it quiet and he was our trump card," said Fields. "He inspired the whole team. When it was announced the night before that he was in the team it gave everybody confidence." Worried about O'Doherty's fitness, Harps started the former Coleraine player at the back but he was moved to midfield when Saint Patrick's Athletic scored an early goal and he proceeded to organise Harps' revival.

Fields, who rated O'Doherty "one of the greatest players ever in the League of Ireland," was largely instrumental in securing the Derryman's signature. "We paid £4,000 for him," he recalled. "I held a meeting in Jackson's Hotel in Ballybofey and got £100 a head from forty people." Thanks to Fields' initiative, Harps won the race for the classy utility player ahead of a posse of wealthier clubs.

In 1968 Harps won the FAI Junior Cup with Fields doing the coaching, but when they went out of the Intermediate Cup the following season in the first round to Belgrove, he decided to do something to ensure football right through the season for the Donegal lads. "On our way home from the Belgrove game we



Finn Harps 1974. From left, front row: Jim "Chang" Smith, Tony O'Doherty, Paul McGee, Gerry Murray, Paddy McGrory, Peter Hutton, Charlie Ferry. Back row: Patsy McGowan (manager), Gerry McGranaghan, Declan McDowell, Brendan Bradley, Jim Sheridan, Donal O'Doherty. [Irish Independent].

stopped for a meal in Ashbourne and it came to my head then that we should go for League of Ireland football," said Fields.

Once the decision was taken the race was on to prepare Finn Park for a League inspection. Here again Fields was a big help as he was in the plant hire business at the time. Three months' voluntary work constructed a pitch worthy of senior football . . . and then there was the League's annual general meeting to attend, which meant a long day for Fields as he was there from ten in the morning canvassing the delegates.

The League expanded to admit Harps and Athlone Town and 17 August 1969 was the red-letter day when Cup holders Shamrock Rovers arrived for the City Cup tie which marked Harps' senior debut. Rovers went home with a 10–2 win under their belts and Harps probably felt they were back at square one again.

However, the turning point came when Fields and McGowan put the Rovers' lesson to good use and went talent spotting. Jim Nicholl was signed from Coleraine, Brendan Bradley from Derry City and Peter Hutton from Crusaders and these players formed the backbone of the new Harps who gradually came to terms with League of Ireland football and eventually earned the club its first senior trophy, the FAI Cup in 1974.

For winger Paul McGee, the Cup was won the day Harps drew their third round tie with Bohemians. "We were 1–0 down and being run off the park," he recalled. "With a few minutes to go, the ball broke to me and I tried a first time shot. It was going for the corner flag when Charlie Ferry stuck his head out and headed it in." Ferry, who scored the goals which won the replay, had a great Cup campaign, scoring six goals and laying on as many more for his teammates. He and wing-half Paddy McGrory were the sole survivors of Harps' senior debut.

FIRST ROUND

January 31	**C.I.E.** ..... 1 Corcoran **(At Oriel Park)**	**DUNDALK** ..... 5 Watson, McManus, Waddell 2, Coyne
February 6	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Fagan, Logan	**WEMBLEY ROVERS** ..... 1 Long pen.

SECOND ROUND

February 17	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 5 Nicholl 4, Larkin	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Fagan
	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 O'Connor, Flanagan	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 Coyne, Cobbe

	DROGHEDA 0		CORK CELTIC 0	
	FINN HARPS ..... 4 Smith, Forbes, Ferry, Bradley		HOME FARM ..... 1 Devlin	
	LIMERICK 0		TRANSPORT ..... 1 Leavy	
	SHELBOURNE 0		CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 3 F. Murphy, Sweeney 2	
	T.E.K. UNITED 0		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Dempsey, O'Sullivan	
	WATERFORD ..... 1 Matthews		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Fagan	

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

February 20	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 Hannigan		DROGHEDA ..... 1 Stephens	
	(Abandoned at 90 mins. by Ref. J. Carpenter missiles thrown.)			
	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0		WATERFORD ..... 1 Leech	
February 21	DUNDALK 0		BOHEMIANS ..... 4 Flanagan 3, O'Connor	

SECOND ROUND RE-FIXTURE

February 27	DROGHEDA ..... 1 Beckett	(At Dalymount Park)	CORK CELTIC 0	

THIRD ROUND

March 10	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 Healy, Campbell		TRANSPORT ..... 1 Conroy	
	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Brophy		FINN HARPS ..... 1 Ferry	
	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Lawson		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 O'Sullivan, Dempsey	
	DROGHEDA 0		WATERFORD 0	

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

March 13	FINN HARPS ..... 2 Ferry 2		BOHEMIANS 0	
March 14	WATERFORD ..... 3 Macken, Leech 2 (After extra time.)		DROGHEDA ..... 4 Clarke, O'Halloran, Brammeld 2	

SEMI-FINAL: ORIEL PARK, DUNDALK

March 31	ATHLONE TOWN 0		FINN HARPS ..... 5 Bradley 2, Ferry pen., Harkin, McGrory	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 31	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Flanagan		DROGHEDA 0	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 21	FINN HARPS ..... 3 Ferry (4m.), Bradley 2 (79m., 88m.)		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Byrne (19m.)	

Finn Harps: Gerry Murray, Gerry McGranaghan, Jim Sheridan, Tony O'Doherty, Peter Hutton, Paddy McGrory, Declan McDowell, Jimmy 'Chang' Smith, Paul McGee, Brendan Bradley, Charlie Ferry. *Sub.:* Donal O'Doherty for Smith, 84 mins.

St. Patrick's Athletic: Tom Lally, Jack Burkett, Ernie Reynolds, Paul Doyle, Brendan Myles, Sean Byrne, Leo 'Pop' Flanagan, Paddy Munroe, Ben O'Sullivan, Paul Smith, Dermot 'Mo' Shields. *Sub.:* Mick Dempsey for Smith, 55 mins.

Attendance: 14,000 **Receipts: £8,000.**

It's a Record

- The highest scoring semi-finals were in 1948 (Shamrock Rovers, 8; St. Patrick's Athletic, 2), and 1952 (Dundalk 6, Waterford 4, after extra time). Rovers' 8–2 was the biggest winning margin in a semi-final.
- The 1950 (Transport–Cork Athletic) and 1970 (Bohemians–Sligo Rovers) finals needed three games to reach a conclusion.

Home Farm, 1975. From left, front row: Noel King, Joe Smith, Brian Daly, Jack Dempsey, Dermot Keely, Joe Keely. Back row: Martin Murray, Frank Devlin, Mick Brophy, Jim Grace, David Hughes, Tony Higgins, Dave Bacuzzi (manager). [Irish Independent].

CHAPTER 54

1975: Bacuzzi's Sacrifice

WHEN Home Farm won the FAI Cup in 1975, with a 1–0 win over Shelbourne, they became the first amateur team to do so in 40 years. However, amateurism had changed so much in the intervening period that part of the build up to Farm's big day involved the players' appeal for some form of win-bonus! The suggestion of a clothes voucher was mooted, £30 or more in value, but this was emphatically rejected by Home Farm's officers, some of them survivors from the club's foundation in 1928. Shelbourne's players, meanwhile, stood to gain £500 if they won the final. Although Home Farm won the game, the rejection of the voucher scheme was instrumental in breaking up the team. Eventually, after losing several players to professional clubs, Farm offered their players a holiday in Spain – on condition that they first signed on for the following season.

Amateurs have always made sacrifices, but the man who made one of the biggest sacrifices for Home Farm was manager Dave Bacuzzi who, at thirty-four, retired to the sidelines when he took over the club, as their rules at the time didn't permit them to play professionals. "It took a long time to make that decision," he said. "I probably would have had a few more years in the League of Ireland but I think I made the right decision." It was the challenge to his coaching ability which won him over.

Bacuzzi, who had guided Cork Hibernians to Cup success in 1972 and 1973, was let go by Hibs when his second two-year contract ended in 1974. Although Hibs later changed their minds, by then he had given his word to Home Farm and so he moved to Dublin.

Despite the club's triumph, he was soon shown the other side of the coin. "After the Cup final we had to play two League games and needed one point to avoid having to apply for re-election," he recalled. "We played Shamrock Rovers at home the following Friday – and there was nobody at the game. That really disillusioned me."

Captain of Home Farm was long-serving centre-back Jack Dempsey, who only came into the team when regular defender Tom O'Dea emigrated to the United States. However, Dempsey proved an inspiring father-figure to Farm's young side. Director of a fruit company, he brought a box of oranges to the Saturday training sessions and this became the team's lucky mascot. After the semi-final against Saint Patrick's Athletic he came off the pitch with his head covered in bruises from his aerial duels with former Leicester City striker, Peter Jackson. When the idea of flying O'Dea home from the States for the final was raised, it was shot down by the players.

Among Home Farm's victims on the way to the final were some very well known names from English football. Second round victims Dundalk had just appointed former Northern Ireland international Jim McLaughlin as player-manager; third round victims Cork Celtic included former Chelsea and England international Bobby Tambling in their lineout and even his goal – rated the best of the tournament by Home Farm administrator Brendan Menton – couldn't deny the Farm; and semi-final victims Saint Patrick's Athletic were managed by Jack Burkett, the former West Ham United defender, who won an English Cup medal in 1964.

FIRST ROUND

February 5	DROGHEDA	0	COBH RAMBLERS P. Meade	1
February 6	LIMERICK Duggan, Doyle pen.	2	BELGROVE	0

SECOND ROUND

February 16	COBH RAMBLERS G. Ward	1	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. Jackson 2, Flanagan	3
	CORK HIBERNIANS Wigginton 2, Sweeney, Marsden	4	FINN HARPS	0
	C.Y.M. G. Garvan	1	WATERFORD	0
	HOME FARM J. Smith	1	DUNDALK	0
	LIMERICK Duggan	1	BOHEMIANS T. O'Connor, Ryan 2	3

	PARKVILLA	0	SHAMROCK ROVERS	0
	SHELBOURNE McNaughton, Lawlor	2	ATHLONE TOWN Healy	1
	SLIGO ROVERS L. McCool	1	CORK CELTIC Tambling 2, Hale	3

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

February 20	SHAMROCK ROVERS Lyons, Murphy 3 (1 pen.), McEwan	5	PARKVILLA Kennedy	1

THIRD ROUND

March 7	SHELBOURNE Hannon	1	SHAMROCK ROVERS	0
March 9	BOHEMIANS T. O'Connor	1	CORK HIBERNIANS Wigginton	1
	HOME FARM Devlin 2, Courtney	3	CORK CELTIC Allen, Tambling	2
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. Whelan	1	C.Y.M.	0

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 12	CORK HIBERNIANS Lawson	1	BOHEMIANS	0

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE

April 6	CORK HIBERNIANS Finnegan	1	SHELBOURNE Lawlor	1

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 6	HOME FARM Higgins 2, Doyle o.g.	3	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. Baker, O'Sullivan	2

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 9	SHELBOURNE Barber	1	CORK HIBERNIANS	0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 27	HOME FARM Devlin (7m.)	1	SHELBOURNE	0

Home Farm: Jim Grace, Joe Smith, Brian Daly, Dermot Keely, Michael Brophy, Jack Dempsey, David Hughes, Joe Keely, Tony Higgins, Frank Devlin, Martin Murray.

Shelbourne: Willie Byrne, Mick Gannon, Vincent McKenna, Tony McDonnell, Paddy Dunning, John Cervi, Terry Byrne, Albert Hannon, Paul McNaughton, Mick Lawlor, Eric Barber.

Attendance: 10,000 **Receipts: £4,000.**

CHAPTER 55

1976: Bohs Ride Their Luck

AFTER a shakey start to their campaign, which saw them survive against non-League opposition with a suspiciously offside goal, Bohemians took the FAI Cup to Dalymount Park for the fourth time in 1976. "Joe Burke was definitely offside when he scored the winner against Ringmahon Rangers in the first round," recalled manager Billy Young. "They defended against us but they would have beaten us if they had taken us on, as we played badly." Young, who had guided Bohemians to the League title the previous season, had further problems to overcome in the second round against Cork Celtic. "Centre-forward Terry Flanagan had a great first year with us in 1974-75,but he had a terrible second year and I tried everyone and anyone to replace him," said Young. "For the game away to Cork Celtic I tried John Doran, who had been displaced at left-back by Fran O'Brien. He had an inspired game and that was the difference on the day, but he couldn't keep up that form." Celtic included England World Cup star Geoff Hurst in their lineout and he wasn't the only England star to play in the FAI Cup that season. Bobby Charlton lined out with Waterford but didn't get past the first hurdle, losing 3–0 away to Finn Harps.

Cork Hibernians were another club to invest in English talent, including Rodney Marsh for their first round tie with Drogheda. However, it was Drogheda who came out on top after a four-game marathon which had plenty of talking-points. In the first replay in Cork, Drogheda had to come back from a 2–0 half-time deficit, while the third game saw Drogheda striker Cathal Muckian dismissed after 28 minutes yet the Boynesiders' ten men survived the 90 minutes,

plus two periods of extra time, to earn a gallant 0–0 draw. Muckian proved the hero of the third replay, hitting two goals as Drogheda advanced on a 3–0 scoreline. Drogheda, under manager Jimmy McAlinden, had their players split between Dublin, Drogheda and Belfast, but they used their experience to deliver the goods and reach the Cup final.

Bohemians, meanwhile, were glad to call on experienced players also, with captain Johnny Fullam proving an inspiring leader as he bid for his seventh Cup medal, while goalkeeper Mick Smyth was in search of his sixth. Up front, Turlough O'Connor saved the day with a late equaliser in the semi-final against Sligo Rovers, but Bohs hit top form in the replay and won easily 5–0. O'Connor also played a key role in the final laying on the winning goal for Niall Shelly, the utility player who got the nod from Billy Young for the troublesome centre-forward role.

"The 1976 final was the only one I enjoyed," recalled Mick Smyth. "I was very confident at that stage. I always felt I was a good goalkeeper but I was never a confident one. Any nightmare match I had was at Milltown, but at Bohs I felt I was one of the stars. I was actually being given a release by Sean Thomas but he left first and then I had a three months' trial under Billy Young and started to play well, with trainer Mick Byrne constantly telling me I was the greatest." In gratitude to Byrne, Smyth presented him with his medal after the final.

With left-winger Gerry Ryan doubtful with hamstring trouble before the final, manager Young included Ashley Grimes as his reserve and brought him on at half-time. Grimes hit a cracker of a goal only 15 minutes after coming on but it was disallowed for offside against Shelly who didn't appear to be interfering with play. Grimes and Ryan later moved to English football, with Manchester United and Derby County respectively.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

January 22	**LIMERICK** 0		**DALKEY UNITED** ..... 1 Devlin	
January 28	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 3 Leonard, Smyth o.g., Doyle o.g.		**C.I.E. TRANSPORT** 0	

FIRST ROUND

February 15	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Burke		**RINGMAHON RANGERS** 0	

	CORK CELTIC ..... 3 McCarthy pen., McSweeney, Myers		DUNDALK 0	
	DALKEY UNITED 0		ATHLONE TOWN 0	
	DROGHEDA ..... 1 Stephens		CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 1 Trainor	
	FINN HARPS ..... 3 Carlyle, Bradley 2		WATERFORD 0	
	ST. BRENDAN'S ..... 1 Kennedy		SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 Pugh, Wood, Fagan pen.	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Flanagan		SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Magee	
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Lawlor		HOME FARM ..... 1 F. Devlin	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 18	CORK HIBERNIANS ..... 2 Wigginton, Sweeney		DROGHEDA ..... 2 Muckian, Donnelly	
	(After extra time.)			
	HOME FARM 0		SHELBOURNE ..... 3 Devine, Shields pen., Roche	
February 19	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 4 Whelan, Minnock, Daly, Martin		DALKEY UNITED ..... 1 Heffernan	
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Cooke pen.		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 Conway, Bridges, Byrne	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 26	DROGHEDA 0		CORK HIBERNIANS 0	
	(At Dalymount Park, after two periods of extra time.)			

FIRST ROUND THIRD REPLAY

March 1	DROGHEDA ..... 3 Muckian 2, Tully		CORK HIBERNIANS 0	

SECOND ROUND

March 7	CORK CELTIC 0		BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Doran	
	DROGHEDA ..... 1 O'Halloran		ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0	
	SHELBOURNE 0		FINN HARPS ..... 2 Harkin, Bradley	
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 4 McGee, Leonard 2, Fagan		ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 Davis 2	

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 2	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 McGee		BOHEMIANS ..... 1 O'Connor	

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 4	DROGHEDA ..... 1 Muckian		FINN HARPS 0	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 7	BOHEMIANS ..... 5 Ryan, Kelly, Gregg, T. O'Connor 2		SLIGO ROVERS 0	

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 18	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 Shelly (81m.)		DROGHEDA 0	

Bohemians: Mick Smyth, Eamonn Gregg, Fran O'Brien, Tommy Kelly, Joe Burke, Johnny Fullam, Pat Byrne, Pádraig O'Connor, Turlough O'Connor, Niall Shelly, Gerry Ryan. *Sub.:* Ashley Grimes for Ryan, 45 mins.

Drogheda: Leo Byrne, Christy Campbell, Ray McGuigan, Martin Donnelly, Willie Roche, Tony Brunton, George O'Halloran, Denis Stephens, Damien Byrne, Brendan Tully, Cathal Muckian. *Sub.:* Jerome Clarke for Campbell, 75 mins.

Attendance: 10,400 **Receipts: £6,500.**

It's a Record

- Bohemians and Shamrock Rovers have played in the Cup each year since 1922.
- Pat Courtney (Shamrock Rovers, 1964–69) is the only Player to play in six successive Cup-winning teams.

CHAPTER 56

1977: St. Brigid Intervenes

JIM McLAUGHLIN is a quick learner. The Derryman, who had a good innings in English football with Swansea, Shrewsbury and Peterborough and won twelve Northern Ireland caps, suffered a severe setback on his FAI Cup debut as a manager in 1975, yet the following season he produced practically a new team to win the League and, in 1977, he guided his team to Cup glory. "Defeat in the first round by the amateurs Home Farm in 1975 was one of the greatest learning experiences I ever had," he recalled. "It was my first FAI Cup tie and I had been lured over from England with talk of about eight full-time professionals. After the game there were meetings going on all over the town and I was told we couldn't afford this or we couldn't afford that. Douggie Devlin and John Coyne were let go. After that experience I realised it was all about success."

Dundalk didn't make an impressive start to the 1977 Cup campaign as – shades of Home Farm! – they scraped through 2–1 against amateurs Pegasus. It was in this game that Kevin Moran convinced Manchester United scout, Billy Behan, that he was English First Division material. "Pegasus considered that Dundalk's dangerman was outside-right Jimmy Dainty so they put Kevin at left-back to mark him," said Behan. "I thought he was outstanding and I realised he could make it to the top."

After a good 1–0 win away to Cork Celtic, Dundalk were in more trouble in the semi-final against Saint Patrick's Athletic, whose player-manager was former Chelsea and England star Barry Bridges. "We should have lost to Saint Pat's as Neil Martin caused havoc in the drawn game but, for the replay, I put Tom McConville on him

and he dominated him," recalled McLaughlin. "Tom may not be better than him in the air but he ensured that if he wasn't going to get the ball, Martin wasn't getting it either!

"When the score was 0–0, Brian McConville gave a bad pass back that put Barry Bridges straight through but he missed the chance. Brian was lying down and it took us a while to persuade him that Bridges had missed and it was time to get up. 'I was praying to Saint Brigid that he'd miss it,' he said. Brian was from Faughart and they have great devotion to Saint Brigid out there.

"We didn't lose from January after we had a three-hour meeting in Gormanston on a Saturday. I wasn't happy. We weren't on the same wavelength and hadn't got our act together. After that we went about thirteen matches unbeaten. That meeting was very important. Without it we couldn't have done what we did."

One of the benefactors of that meeting was centre-forward Terry Flanagan, who was obliged to put in extra training stints to combat a weight problem. Having shed a half-stone in the month before the Cup final against Limerick, he proved the match-winner on the day with two goals, the first laid on by player-manager McLaughlin after a run down the left wing.

Limerick were the surprise packet of the Cup. They had been struggling until Frank Johnson was appointed manager and a shock first round win away to League champions Sligo Rovers gave them the boost they needed. In the final they played the more attractive football without getting any reward and their hopes were also hit by an early injury to influential midfielder Johnny Walsh.

Fate intervened on Dundalk's behalf before a ball was kicked in the Cup. For the first time ever there was a re-draw of the first round. In the original draw Dundalk were away to Cork Celtic; in the re-draw they were home to Pegasus or Home Farm. Saint Patrick's Athletic versus Finn Harps was the only tie re-drawn the same.

FIRST ROUND

January 27	**PEGASUS** ..... 2 Dolan 2	**HOME FARM** ..... 2 Williams, Dolan o.g.
February 2	**WEMBLEY ROVERS** 0	**BOHEMIANS** .....6 Cooke, T. O'Connor 2 (1 pen.), Ryan, P. Byrne, Kelly

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

February 2	**HOME FARM** ..... 1 Cervi	**PEGASUS** ..... 2 Travers, Henry

SECOND ROUND

February 13	ALBERT ROVERS	0	DROGHEDA Muckian, Tully	2
	BOHEMIANS T. O'Connor 2	2	SHAMROCK ROVERS Leech, Fullam pen.	2
	CORK CELTIC Carroll, Tambling, Madden	3	ATHLONE TOWN	0
	DUNDALK Lawlor, Flanagan	2	PEGASUS McGrath	1
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. N. Martin, Byrne	2	FINN HARPS Smith	1
	SHELBOURNE Delamere, Bailey	2	BRAY WANDERERS	0
	SLIGO ROVERS Leonard	1	LIMERICK Kirby, Duggan 2, Walsh	4
	WATERFORD Carey 2, Dunphy	3	T.E.K. UNITED Bell pen., Heffernan, Monaghan	3

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

February 16	T.E.K. UNITED Monaghan	1	WATERFORD Wallace, Matthews	2
February 23	SHAMROCK ROVERS	0	BOHEMIANS P. Byrne, Cooke, Ryan, Grimes	4

THIRD ROUND

March 6	BOHEMIANS Cooke	1	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. S. Byrne	1
	CORK CELTIC	0	DUNDALK Lawlor	1
	DROGHEDA UNITED D. Byrne	1	SHELBOURNE Gannon	1
	LIMERICK	0	WATERFORD	0

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

March 9	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. N. Martin	1	BOHEMIANS	0
March 10	SHELBOURNE Devine, Finnegan	2	DROGHEDA UNITED Muckian 2, Donnelly	3
	WATERFORD	0	LIMERICK Kirby	1

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 1	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. N. Martin	1	DUNDALK Flanagan	1

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 3	LIMERICK	0	DROGHEDA UNITED	0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 6	DUNDALK Braddish	1	ST. PATRICK'S ATH.	0

(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 7	DROGHEDA UNITED Byrne	1	LIMERICK Nolan	1

(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 14	LIMERICK Duggan, Kirby	2	DROGHEDA UNITED Stephens	1

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

May 1	DUNDALK Flanagan 2 (33m., 87m.)	2	LIMERICK	0

Dundalk: Richie Blackmore, Brian McConville, Jackie McManus, Tom McConville, Jim McLaughlin, Synan Braddish, Seamus McDowell, Jimmy Dainty, Mick Lawlor, Terry Flanagan, Tony Cavanagh.

Limerick: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Pat Nolan, Tony Fitzgerald, Joe O'Mahony, John Herrick, Eamonn Deacy, Tony Meaney, Johnny Walsh, Des Kennedy, Ger Duggan, Dave Kirby. *Sub.:* Denis Lymer for Walsh, 31 mins.

Attendance: 17,000 (approx.) **Receipts: Not available.**

Shamrock Rovers 1978. From left: Johnny Fullam, Ray Treacy, Eamon Dunphy, Johnny Giles, Alan O'Neill, Noel Synnott, Steve Lynex, Larry Murray, Mark Meagan, Pierce O'Leary, Mick Gannon, Robbie Gaffney, Eddie O'Sullivan [Irish Independent].

CHAPTER 57

1978: Sligo Revolver Backfires!

STEVE LYNEX had a very eventful summer in 1977. For a start, the eighteen-year-old winger was given a free release by manager Johnny Giles at West Brom. With his dreams of First Division football in ruins he was glad to accept an offer of a month's trial from League of Ireland champions Sligo Rovers.

He was given digs above a pub in the town and after some pre-season training and a friendly against an Irish League team in which he did well, he was feeling pleased with himself. The chance of a contract appeared bright. Again his prospects were shattered when, on coming down the stairs from his digs one day, a revolver was thrust into his side and he was informed bluntly, "We don't want your kind here." That was enough for Lynex. He packed his bags and left.

Meanwhile Giles had returned to his native Dublin as player-manager of Shamrock Rovers, taking with him another West Brom colleague, Ray Treacy. When they were discussing possible signings, Treacy suggested that Lynex might do a good job in the League of Ireland as he had the pace to cause defenders problems. It was agreed to offer him a month's trial.

The negotiations that followed required all the tact and diplomacy that Giles could muster. He had to re-assure Lynex on two counts – first, because he was the one who had let him go at West Brom, and secondly, that Dublin wasn't Sligo. He succeeded – and Sligo's Cup fate was sealed.

After an encouraging trial, Lynex was signed on and he proceeded to come good, especially during Rovers' Cup run when he scored vital goals against Dundalk and Waterford and proved the matchwin-

ner in the final – against Sligo Rovers, whose fans' chant of 'Sligo reject' had a hollow ring about it after the ninety minutes. It was Lynex's blinding pace which led to him being taken down in the penalty area and Treacy stepped up to shoot the only goal of the game. It was a neat twist of fortune for Lynex – and Sligo.

Lynex later moved to Birmingham City and then to Leicester City where his fine wing play brought him to the fringe of the England team. He has no hesitation in naming Giles and Rovers as the making of him.

"Giles is a football genius. I owe him everything," he says. "Rovers was a great experience for me. I played in Europe and experienced a Cup final and Rovers gave me the confidence to make a go of it the second time around in England. If I hadn't gone there I probably would have been playing in the Reserves somewhere in front of 500 people and getting nowhere."

Another player who had Giles to thank that season for his break-through to senior ranks was Pierce O'Leary, brother of Republic of Ireland defender David. He made his debut in December at left-back and held his place to win a Cup medal in his first season. In 1985, he managed a repeat with another Green-and-White-Hooped team when, in his first season with Glasgow Celtic, he won a Scottish Cup medal.

FIRST ROUND

January 25	AIB 0	WATERFORD ..... 1 Matthews
	AVONDALE UNITED 0	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 2 Tom Murphy, Martin
	ST. JAMES'S GATE ..... 1 Dunne	HOME FARM ..... 5 Cervi, Eviston 2, Balcombe 2
January 26	DALKEY UNITED 0	FINN HARPS ..... 1 Harkin

SECOND ROUND

February 18	SHELBOURNE 0	CORK ALBERTS 0
February 19	ATHLONE TOWN 0	LIMERICK 0
	FINN HARPS 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
	HOME FARM ..... 1 Nelligan pen.	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 1 McLoughlin
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Delamere
	THURLES TOWN 0	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 3 Donnelly, Muckian 2

February 23	BOHEMIANS 0	WATERFORD ..... 2 Wallace, McCarthy
March 1	CORK CELTIC ..... 1 J. Carroll pen.	DUNDALK ..... 3 Lawlor 2, Dainty pen.

SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

February 22	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 1 O'Connor o.g.	HOME FARM ..... 2 Hughes, Eviston
February 23	LIMERICK ..... 1 Collins	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Devlin

(After extra time.)

February 28	CORK ALBERTS ..... 1 C. McCarthy	SHELBOURNE 0

(Declared void by FAI.)

March 1	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Meagan, Treacy 2	FINN HARPS ..... 2 Ferry, Healy pen.

(After extra time.)

SECOND ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 2	LIMERICK ..... 1 O'Mahony	ATHLONE TOWN 0

RE-FIXTURE

March 8	CORK ALBERTS ..... 1 C. McCarthy	SHELBOURNE 0

THIRD ROUND

March 12	CORK ALBERTS ..... 1 Morley pen.	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Tobin 2
	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Clarke	LIMERICK 0
	HOME FARM 0	WATERFORD ..... 2 Dunphy, Wallace
March 15	DUNDALK 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 22	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Lynex	DUNDALK 0

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 9	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Meagan, Lynex	WATERFORD ..... 1 Wallace

SEMI-FINAL: DUNDALK

April 9 — **SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 **DROGHEDA UNITED** 0
Gilligan

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 30 — **SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 **SLIGO ROVERS** 0
Treacy pen. (48m.)

Shamrock Rovers: Alan O'Neill, Mick Gannon, Pierce O'Leary, Noel Synnott, Johnny Fullam, Eamonn Dunphy, Johnny Giles, Mark Meagan, Larry Murray, Ray Treacy, Steve Lynex. *Sub.:* Eddie O'Sullivan for Gannon, 63 mins.

Sligo Rovers: Alan Patterson, Paul Fielding, Chris Rutherford, Tony Stenson, Graham Fox, John Gilligan, Tony Fagan, Don Tobin, Tony Cavanagh, Gary Hulmes, John Delamere. *Sub.:* Harry McLoughlin for Delamere, 77 mins.

Attendance: 12,500 **Receipts: £17,500.**

It's a Record

- Dolphin beat St. James's Gate 10–0 away in the first round in 1932.
- William 'Sacky' Glen played in ten Cup finals.

CHAPTER 58

1979: Hump and Twitch Hit it Off

WHEN Jim McLaughlin asked Dermot Keely to sign for Dundalk, centre-back Keely got quite a shock because it was the first time they had spoken a civil word to each other! As opponents – Keely with Saint Patrick's Athletic – they had hurled abuse at each other on the field. Keely's references to the humpty-back style of running for which McLaughlin was noted were not exactly designed to endear him to the Derryman, while McLaughlin wasn't slow to remind Keely of the nervous twitch which developed in his eye when he got excited. "Jim played mainly at left-full but when the going got tough he went mad," recalled Keely. "The forwards would disappear as they usually do and McLaughlin would come up field and hurl abuse at me trying to unsettle me and I'd tell him to get back in his box, with a few well chosen expletives. So you could have knocked me down when he called and asked me to sign." The signing wasn't all plain sailing either as Dundalk director Jim O'Reilly, who sat in on the negotiations, strongly advised McLaughlin to have nothing to do with Keely. However, the manager knew what he wanted, the deal was concluded and a trophy-winning partnership was begun.

Keely, who had won a Cup medal with Home Farm in 1975 before moving to Saint Patrick's Athletic, soon rewarded McLaughlin's faith, proving the lynch-pin of the defence as Dundalk marched to the club's first League and Cup double in 1978–79. The Dundalk defence of Richie Blackmore in goal, Tom McConville and Martin Lawlor at full-back and Keely, and Paddy Dunning at centre-back was the best the League of Ireland had seen for a number of years. "They were ruthless – they wouldn't give you a sausage," commented

Dundalk, League and F.A.I. Cup winners, 1979: From left, front row: Paddy Dunning, Liam Devine, Mick Lawlor, Dermot Keely, Martin Lawlor, Vinny McKenna. Back row: Jimmy Dainty, Tom McConville, Hilary Carlyle, Richie Blackmore, Sean Byrne, Cathal Muckian, Leo "Pop" Flanagan [Irish Independent].

McLaughlin.

As has happened on a number of occasions, the Cup finalists were scheduled to meet in a League game the week before the final. On this occasion the game was at Oriel Park and Dundalk were hosting Waterford. "The game meant nothing to us because we had the League wrapped up but they beat us 3–0 and took too much pleasure out of it," recalled McLaughlin. "Sid Wallace got two goals and gave Dermot Keely the V sign after he stuck in the second. Keely told him he wouldn't get two kicks never mind two goals the following week!

"When I went into the dressingroom on Cup final day I had a lot of things written on a page but I put a match to the paper and said, 'Right, lads, so much for what I was going to say, now go out and do what you're capable of'. It was the best team talk I ever gave."

Dundalk, who went in front after four minutes when a Sean Byrne shot completely fooled Waterford goalkeeper Peter Thomas, had to soak up a lot of pressure before Hilary Carlyle wrapped up the game in injury time when he ran on to a ball from defence, seemed to push Tommy Jackson out of the way and delivered a beautiful shot well out of Thomas's reach.

"That Cup final was a great occasion," recalled Keely. "When we got back to Dundalk that night huge crowds welcomed us. It was fantastic compared to Home Farm when there was nothing after we won in 1975. But that was the last time they got excited in Dundalk. The next time we won, in 1981, it was nothing like that – they had got used to winning."

FIRST ROUND

February 11	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 1 Bradley	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
	CROFTON CELTIC 0	**DROGHEDA UNITED** ..... 2 Brammeld 2
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Carlyle	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0
	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 4 Proctor, Collins 2, McGrain	**CORK CELTIC** ..... 1 O'Brien
	HOME FARM ..... 1 Moran	**FINN HARPS** ..... 2 P. McGuinness, McGrory
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Byrne 2	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Barber
	THURLES TOWN 0	**LIMERICK** 0
	WATERFORD ..... 1 Finucane	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 1 Kelly

February 18	TRAMORE ATHLETIC 0	SWILLY ROVERS ..... 1 O'Keeffe	
February 28	CORK ALBERTS ..... 3 McCarthy, Lane, Murphy	WEMBLEY ROVERS 0	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 15	LIMERICK ..... 4 Meaney 2 (1 pen.), Duggan, Fitzgerald	THURLES TOWN ..... 1 Flanagan
February 22	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 T. O'Connor	WATERFORD ..... 1 Finucane

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

March 1	WATERFORD ..... 1 Hall	BOHEMIANS 0

SECOND ROUND

February 28	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 1 French	SWILLY ROVERS 0
March 1	ATHLONE TOWN 0	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Brammeld

THIRD ROUND

March 11	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Leech	CORK ALBERTS ..... 1 Lane
	DUNDALK ..... 2 Dainty pen., Muckian	FINN HARPS 0
	GALWAY ROVERS 0	WATERFORD ..... 1 McCarthy
	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Byrne, Gaffney	LIMERICK 0

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 15	CORK ALBERTS ..... 2 Hutchinson, Lane	DROGHEDA UNITED 0

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 1	DUNDALK ..... 2 Byrne, Dunning	CORK ALBERTS ..... 1 Murphy
April 8	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 Giles pen.	WATERFORD ..... 2 Wallace 2

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 22	DUNDALK ..... 2 Byrne (4m.), Carlyle (90m.)	WATERFORD 0

Dundalk: Richie Blackmore, Tom McConville, Dermot Keely, Paddy Dunning, Martin Lawlor, Leo 'Pop' Flanagan, Mick Lawlor, Sean Byrne, Jimmy Dainty, Hilary Carlyle, Cathal Muckian.

Waterford: Peter Thomas, Ger O'Mahony, Tony Dunphy, Al Finucane, Brian Gardiner, Mick Madigan, Tommy Jackson, Vinny McCarthy, John Smith, Sid Wallace, Johnny Matthews.

Attendance: 14,000 **Receipts: £18,500.**

Waterford 1980: From left, back row: Larry Murray, Mark Meagan, Al Finucane, Ger O'Mahony, Mick Madigan, Tony Dunphy, Brian Gardiner. Front row: Eamon Coady, Sid Wallace, Vinny McCarthy, Peter Thomas, Tommy Jackson (player-manager), Paul Kirk. *[Irish Independent].*

CHAPTER 59

1980: Jackson Changes his Mind

LIMERICKMAN Al Finucane is one of only two players – Johnny Fullam (Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians) is the other – to have captained two different clubs to FAI Cup success, but his 1980 triumph with Waterford was almost denied him.

Although Waterford's manager, Tommy Jackson, the former Northern Ireland international, often asked Finucane's advice on League of Ireland players, there was a personality clash between the two from the day he took over. Blows were almost struck when this disagreement surfaced at Brian Gardiner's wedding in Kilkenny, with former Manchester United full-back Shay Brennan moving in to smooth things over.

Waterford had enjoyed a lot of success in the League but, apart from a lone win in 1937, the Cup had eluded them. At times it seemed there was a jinx over their efforts and this opinion was fuelled when goalkeeping errors by the normally reliable Peter Thomas proved costly in a semi-final tie against Shamrock Rovers (1978) and in the 1979 final against Dundalk. However, the harder the task became the more the Waterford club wanted to achieve that second Cup success.

Good wins over Thurles Town, Cork United and Athlone Town put Waterford into a semi-final against Limerick, the club Finucane had captained to Cup glory in 1971. By a strange twist, the League fixtures paired the two clubs at Kilcohan Park the week before the semi-final, in a repeat of 1979 when the Blues played Dundalk in the League the week before they met in the Cup final. In 1979 Dundalk

had lost the League game but won the Cup tie. History was about to repeat itself.

Waterford lost the Kilcohan clash 4–3 in what Finucane described as 'the greatest League of Ireland game I ever played in'. He scored one of the Blues' goals and was involved in another. The following Tuesday when the manager rang him to arrange a meeting in Tipperary, Finucane thought he was looking for some advice on the Limerick players he knew so well. Instead, he was told he was dropped for the Cup semi-final. "The manager thought I hadn't put it in the previous Sunday," recalled Finucane. "I was naturally stunned but I said, you're the manager, it's your decision."

When the news broke the following day, Waterford Chairman Joe Delaney was on the 'phone to Finucane asking him what was going on. When Finucane said he had been dropped, Delaney replied: "If you're not playing on Sunday, he'll be sacked on Saturday," indicating how highly Finucane was rated among Blues fans. At training in Waterford the day before the game, Jackson informed Finucane he was playing.

However he arrived at his decision it proved a good one on Jackson's part, for Finucane had a vital role to play in the Cup final against Saint Patrick's Athletic. Waterford were leading Saint Pat's from early on with a goal by left-full Brian Gardiner but gradually the Dublin side were getting on top and centre-forward Jackie Jameson, in particular, was causing his marker, Tony Dunphy, a lot of problems. Eventually, Jackson told Finucane to switch with Dunphy and mark Jameson and from then on the game went away from Saint Pat's. "Jameson likes to be right up against his marker, to know exactly where he is," explained Finucane, "and Tony was doing this. When I marked him I stood off him so that he didn't know where I was and he didn't like that and eventually got booked for taking a swipe at me!"

FIRST ROUND

February 10	AIB ..... 1 O'Reilly	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 4 Devlin 3, Clarke
	CIE TRANSPORT ..... 2 Smith, Cassidy	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Wright, Barron
	COBH RAMBLERS 0	HOME FARM 0
	CORK UNITED ..... 4 McCarthy 2, Allen, Punch	UCD ..... 1 Moran
	DROGHEDA UNITED 0	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 3 Walsh, Delamere, Ferguson o.g.
	DUNDALK ..... 3 Braddish, Duff, Harkin	FINN HARPS ..... 1 Minnock

	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Lawless, Whelan
	SHELBOURNE 0	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 1 Cooke pen.
	SLIGO ROVERS 0	TRAMORE ATHLETIC 0
	THURLES TOWN 0	WATERFORD ..... 5 Kirk 2, Finucane, Gardiner, O'Mahony

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 13	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 3 Carthy 2, Daly	CIE TRANSPORT ..... 2 Cassidy, O'Brien
February 14	HOME FARM ..... 2 Archbold, Williams	COBH RAMBLERS 0
February 20	TRAMORE ATHLETIC 0	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Skeffington 2

SECOND ROUND

February 28	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 P. O'Connor, McCue	SLIGO ROVERS 0
	WATERFORD ..... 3 Madigan, Murray 2 (1 pen.)	CORK UNITED 0

THIRD ROUND

March 9	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Byrne, Lawless	GALWAY ROVERS ..... 1 Quinlivan
	DUNDALK 0	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Morris
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Carthy	HOME FARM ..... 1 Archbold
	WATERFORD ..... 1 Gardiner	ATHLONE TOWN 0

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 12	HOME FARM ..... 1 King	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Carthy 2

SEMI-FINALS: DALYMOUNT PARK

March 30	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Malone	BOHEMIANS 0
April 6	WATERFORD ..... 1 Jackson pen.	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Walsh

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: MILLTOWN

April 10	WATERFORD ..... 3 Wallace, Dunphy, Kirk	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 2 Kennedy, Walsh

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 20 **WATERFORD** ..... 1 **ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0
Gardiner (22m.)

Waterford: Peter Thomas, Ger O'Mahony, Tony Dunphy, Al Finucane, Brian Gardiner, Mark Meagan, Mick Madigan, Vinny McCarthy, Larry Murray, Sid Wallace, Paul Kirk. *Subs.:* Tommy Jackson for McCarthy, 73 mins.; Eamonn Coady for Wallace, 83 mins.

St. Patrick's Athletic: Jim Grace, Tony Higgins, Willie Roche, Barry Murphy, George Munnelly, Niall O'Donnell, Joey Malone, Tommy Hynes, Derek Carthy, Jackie Jameson, Paul Kirwan. *Subs.:* Mick Wright for Carthy, 70 mins.; Aidan Daly for Munnelly, 77 mins.

Attendance: 18,000 **Receipts: £26,000.**

It's a Record

- Jack O'Reilly (Cork United and Cork Athletic) scored seven Cup final goals.
- In 1932 there were no replays in any round of the Cup.

Mick Fairclough

CHAPTER 60

1981: The Courage of Fairclough

MICK FAIRCLOUGH, who clinched the 1981 FAI Cup for Dundalk with a superbly taken goal after a run from the halfway line, shouldn't have been playing that day! Six years earlier he had been the victim of a brutal tackle from a Watford player during an English Third Division game for Huddersfield Town and the resultant knee injury finished his English League career at the age of twenty-two. Fairclough had been transferred to Huddersfield from Drogheda where, as a youth, he had lined out in the FAI Cup final of 1971 against Limerick. With Huddersfield he played First, Second and Third Division football before his injury, was capped at under-23 level and also travelled with the international squad to Brazil in 1972. He attempted a comeback with Dundalk in 1978 but found his knee wasn't up to it. "Jim McLaughlin then put me in touch with Bobby McGregor in Belfast and it was like a miracle after that as four or five specialists had said I'd never play again," he recalled.

"Mick was playing for CIE against Telephones when I saw him again," said McLaughlin. "It was a very physical game and he was throwing himself around even though he was a cripple. I said why not risk it at a higher level if you're prepared to do that. He was dying to have a go so it only took two seconds to persuade him to sign."

Fairclough made his League comeback in February, 1980, as a sub against Shamrock Rovers at Milltown – and scored the equaliser. It was a dream comeback and when he returned just over a year later to the same ground for the FAI Cup semi-final against Finn Harps he was on the mark again, with the only goal of the game. "When I go out on the pitch I just throw caution to the winds – I was always like

that," he said. "I never think of my injury; there wouldn't be any point in going out if I did. As far as I'm concerned I'm as fit as anyone else out there."

Dundalk centre-half Dermot Keely was concussed for most of the first half of the final against Sligo Rovers following a collision with teammate Tom McConville. He recalled that Dundalk departed from normal pre-match procedure to discuss opposing star man, Charlie McGeever. "We rarely spoke about the opposition, but we spent about ten minutes talking about picking up McGeever in midfield," he said. "Then, when I saw him lining up in defence I knew we would win. Still, he was great in that game. He leaped like a kangaroo and there was no marking him at the corners." Sadly McGeever's promising career was halted shortly after when he suffered a bad knee injury.

Another star for Sligo that year was winger Harry McLoughlin whose rocket shot beat Waterford in the semi-final replay at Tolka Park. However, his lack of experience of the big occasion showed in the final. "I should have scored after about four minutes," he recalled. "The ball came out and broke to me. With only Richie Blackmore to beat I should have taken it around him but I hit it first time and he saved it with his legs."

The game went away from Sligo when Dundalk winger John Archbold opened the scoring direct from a corner kick. It was one more blow to add to the catalogue of misfortune which has befallen Sligo in Cup finals. As veteran supporter Fraser Browne put it: "In 1939 the goals we conceded in the final against Shelbourne came direct from a corner kick and a free kick; in 1978 the goal came from a penalty kick in mysteriously added on time; in 1981 the first goal came direct from a corner kick. Can any other club have been so unlucky in Cup finals?" Fortunately, Sligo's run of misfortune was to end soon.

FIRST ROUND

February 8	**BALLYFERMOT UNITED** .. 2 Cleary, Al Farrell pen.	**CORK UNITED** ..... 5 McSweeney, McCarthy, Allen, Waters 2
	COBH RAMBLERS ..... 3 O'Leary, McDaid, F. O'Neill	**GALWAY ROVERS** ..... 1 Herrick pen.
	DUNDALK ..... 1 Lawlor	**HAMMOND LANE** 0
	FINN HARPS ..... 3 McIlwaine 2, Logan	**ATHLONE TOWN** 0

	HOME FARM ..... 1 Thomas	**BOHEMIANS** 0
	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 2 Matthews, Kennedy	**THURLES TOWN** ..... 2 Doran, Cooke
	TRAMORE ATHLETIC 0	**DROGHEDA UNITED** ..... 3 Murray 2, Byrne
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 4 Mahon 2, Jameson, Carthy	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Donnelly pen.
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 McLoughlin	**UCD** ..... 1 Doyle
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Gardiner, Madden	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Buckley

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 11	**THURLES TOWN** ..... 1 Sheehy	**LIMERICK UNITED** ..... 1 Meaney
	(After extra time.)	
February 12	**UCD** ..... 1 Doyle	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 2 Fagan, McGeever

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 19	**LIMERICK UNITED** ..... 2 Murphy, Morris	**THURLES TOWN** 0

SECOND ROUND

February 18	**CORK UNITED** 0	**DROGHEDA UNITED** ..... 1 Nugent
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Mahon pen.	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Duff

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

February 26	**DUNDALK** ..... 2 T. McConville, Archbold	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0

THIRD ROUND

March 8	**COBH RAMBLERS** ..... 1 P. O'Neill	**FINN HARPS** ..... 4 Logan 2, McLoughlin, McGonagle
	DROGHEDA UNITED 0	**DUNDALK** 0
	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Jackson o.g.	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Dunphy
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 McGroarty, Patton, McGeever	**HOME FARM** 0

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

March 12	DUNDALK ..... 1 Duff	DROGHEDA UNITED 0
March 19	WATERFORD ..... 3 Madden 2, Jackson	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Matthews

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 4	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 Patton, Sheridan	WATERFORD ..... 2 Finucane, Madden

SEMI-FINAL: MILLTOWN

April 5	DUNDALK ..... 1 Fairclough	FINN HARPS 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 9	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 McLoughlin	WATERFORD 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 26	DUNDALK ..... 2 Archbold (52m.), Fairclough (79m.)	SLIGO ROVERS 0

Dundalk: Richie Blackmore, Tom McConville, Dermot Keely, Paddy Dunning, Martin Lawlor, Sean Byrne, Leo 'Pop' Flanagan, Vinny McKenna, John Archbold, Mick Fairclough, Willie Crawley. *Subs.:* Tony O'Doherty for Lawlor, 66 mins.; Brian Duff for Crawley, 80 mins.

Sligo Rovers: Declan McIntyre, Mick Ferry, Paddy Sheridan, Donal O'Doherty, Charlie McGeever, Jimmy McGroarty, Tony Fagan, Gerry Doherty, Harry McLoughlin, Brendan Bradley, Liam Patton. *Subs.:* Pat Coyle for Patton, 81 mins.; Martin McDonnell for O'Doherty, 83 mins.

Attendance: 12,000 **Receipts: £27,000.**

CHAPTER 61

1982: Ward's Successful Switch

TONY WARD is synonymous with rugby, having been a regular member of the Irish team for a number of years and twice winner of the coveted Golden Boot award. However, he has had a lifelong love affair with soccer and played it as often as he could, winning a schoolboy cap in the company of Liam Brady and lining out with Shamrock Rovers in the League of Ireland and the FAI Cup. As a member of a particularly good Rangers schoolboy side, he had received offers of trials with English League clubs. Until 1982, his only senior soccer award was a Leinster Senior Cup medal won with Rovers. "I would love to have been able to play soccer and rugby but you can't – you fall between two stools," he said.

He was based in Limerick when Eoin Hand, the former Portsmouth and Republic of Ireland defender, was appointed manager of the Market's Field club. Hand tried to woo Ward over to soccer, but Ward made it clear that rugby came first. At the start of the 1980-81 season he played in friendlies against Tottenham and Newport County but was unavailable then due to his Garryowen commitments. When Garryowen were knocked out of the Munster Cup early in 1981, he played a few more games for Limerick and at the start of the 1981–82 season he played in some League Cup ties and also lined out against Southampton in the UEFA Cup.

1982 saw Garryowen knocked out of the Munster Cup early on again, allowing Ward to play in Limerick's opening FAI Cup tie away to Bluebell United. Limerick scrambled an unimpressive win but subsequent good wins over Shelbourne and Aer Lingus clinched a semi-final tie against Athlone Town. Rugby took over then as Gar-

Limerick 1982. From left, back row: Pat Nolan, Al Finucane, Des Kennedy, Ger Duggan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Brendan Storan, Eoin Hand (player-manager), Joe Casey (trainer). Front row: Dave Mahedy (trainer), Tommy Gaynor, Jimmy Nodwell, Joe O'Mahony (captain), Tony Ward, Gary Hulmes, Johnny Walsh [Sportsfile].

ryowen had a League final engagement, but Ward was available for the replay and played in the 1–0 win even though he was 'dying with the 'flu'.

"The final was one of the most enjoyable games I played in," he recalled. "It was a great team, there was great camaraderie. We stayed in the Burlington for the weekend. Everything was as it should be – done professionally. I remember driving up in the coach to Dalymount and seeing Bohemians' full-back Dave Connell walking up with his bag in his hand. I thought that could be the difference between us, our preparation compared to theirs."

While Ward didn't play many games for Limerick, he was involved in training sessions on the morning of every home game and these sessions concentrated on set pieces. This paid off in the final, with Ward driving over a low corner which centre-half Brendan Storan shot to the net for the only goal of the game.

Joe O'Mahony played a captain's part as Limerick held on to their lead. "With just over ten minutes to go I fell heavily and banged my head," he recalled. "Although it rained right through the game, the ground was still hard and I suffered double vision but I wouldn't go off – I wanted to lift that Cup. Just after that, Mick Shelly shot, I threw myself at it and it hit the side of my throat. I knew then that our name was on the Cup. It was very satisfying for me and more than made up for losing in 1977."

About Ward's involvement, O'Mahony said: "Tony played a big part in our win. He gave us great width on the right and whenever we gave him the ball he made great ground. He had great pace and balance and could have been the difference between us going the whole way or not."

FIRST ROUND

February 5	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 2 Joyce 2	**WATERFORD** ..... 1 Madden
February 6	**BLUEBELL UNITED** 0	**LIMERICK UNITED** ..... 1 Gaynor
February 7	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 4 McDonagh, O'Brien, Jameson 2	**FINN HARPS** 0
	CORK UNITED ..... 1 McCarthy	**HOME FARM** ..... 1 Connolly
	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Martin	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Hankin

	DUNDALK ..... 1 Flanagan	THURLES TOWN 0	
	GALWAY UNITED ..... 2 Morley, Mannion	TRAMORE ATHLETIC ..... 1 O'Regan	
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 1 Mahon	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Carroll	
	UCD ..... 1 Reynolds	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Bradley	
	WORKMAN'S CLUB 0	AER LINGUS ..... 1 Burnett	

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 10	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Bradley	UCD ..... 3 Dignam, Norman pen., Saundh
	HOME FARM ..... 1 Burke	CORK UNITED ..... 2 C. McCarthy 2
February 11	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	DROGHEDA UNITED 0
	(After extra time.)	
	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 M. O'Connor pen., McCue	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Mahon 2
	(After extra time.)	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAYS

February 17	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Treacy	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 4 Buckley 2, Campbell, Gaffney
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 3 Carroll, Davis 2

SECOND ROUND

February 17	DUNDALK ..... 4 Kehoe, Fairclough, Flanagan 2 (1 pen.)	CORK UNITED ..... 3 McConville o.g., O'Mahony, McSweeney
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Joyce	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 2 Hand 2

THIRD ROUND

March 7	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Devlin	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
	DUNDALK ..... 2 Crawley 2	GALWAY UNITED 0

	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 4 Gaynor, Storan, Hulmes, Walsh	AER LINGUS 0
	UCD ..... 1 O'Doherty pen.	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Eviston, Doolin

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 2	BOHEMIANS ..... 3 King, Jameson O'Brien	DUNDALK ..... 3 Flanagan pen., Ralph, Kehoe

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 4	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Devlin	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Gaynor

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: MILLTOWN

April 6	BOHEMIANS 0	DUNDALK 0
	(After extra time.)	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 8	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Gaynor	ATHLONE TOWN 0

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 14	BOHEMIANS ..... 1 O'Brien	DUNDALK ..... 1 Crawley

SEMI-FINAL THIRD REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 21	BOHEMIANS ..... 2 Shelly, Reynor	DUNDALK ..... 1 Kehoe

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

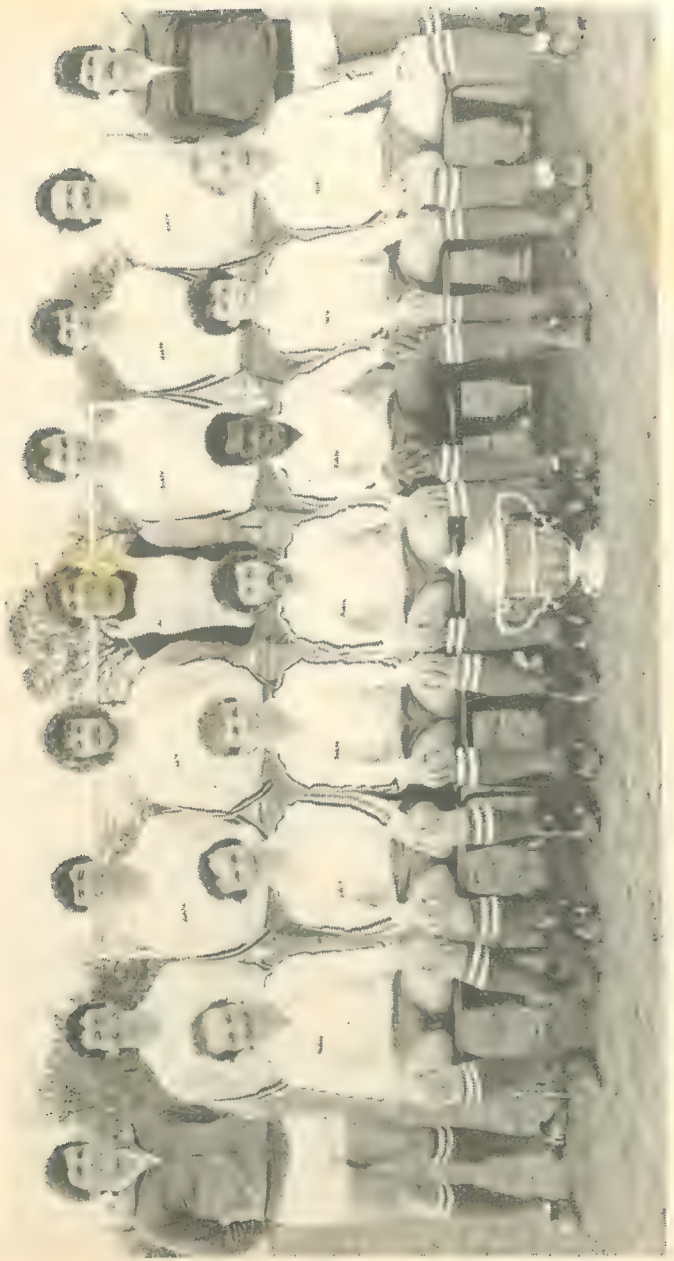
May 2	LIMERICK UNITED ..... 1 Storan (34m.)	BOHEMIANS 0

Limerick United: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Pat Nolan, Brendan Storan, Joe O'Mahony, Al Finucane, Eoin Hand, Jimmy Nodwell, Johnny Walsh, Tony Ward, Tommy Gaynor, Gary Hulmes. *Subs.*: Ger Duggan for Hand, 71 mins.; Des Kennedy for Hulmes, 83 mins.

Bohemians: Dermot O'Neill, Dave Connell, Jacko McDonagh, John McCormack, Gino Lawless, Paul Doolin, Tommy Kelly, Noel King, David 'Rocky' O'Brien, Jackie Jameson, Mick Shelly. *Subs.*: John Reynor for Kelly, 79 mins.; Alan Kinsella for Reynor, 91 mins.

Attendance: 12,000

Receipts: £25,000.



Sligo Rovers 1983. From left, back row: Paul Fielding (player-manager), Mick Savage, Gus Gilligan, Graham Fox, Colin Oakley, Chris Rutherford, Paul Moylan, John Skeffington, Pauric McManus (trainer). Front row: Mick Ferry, Harry McLoughlin, Andy Elliott, Tony Fagan (captain), Mick Graham, Martin McDonnell, Tony Stenson. [Sligo Champion photo].

CHAPTER 62

1983: Local Hero Harry

WHEN Sligo Rovers won the FAI Cup for the first time in 1983 – after five previous unsuccessful final attempts – even the players were caught on the hop! Regarded as one of the worst sides ever to represent the Connacht club, and firmly stuck at the bottom of the League table, none of the players bothered to have the usual bet at the start of the Cup. "If we thought we had even half an average team we always had a bet," said captain Tony Fagan, "but we weren't a good side in 1983."

One factor which didn't help Sligo's League form was the absence of star winger Harry McLoughlin for the best part of four months. "I was out sick with high blood pressure and spent some time in St. Vincent's Hospital in Dublin," he recalled. "They put me on tablets but told me I couldn't play football while I was on the tablets. That was too much for me so eventually I threw away the tablets and went back training. I made my comeback in the first round of the Cup away to Home Farm. I thought I was terrible in the second half and I wanted to come off but Paul Fielding wouldn't take me off. Obviously he felt I needed the match practice."

Player-manager Fielding's decision was justified a month later in the second round of the Cup when McLoughlin hit a superb goal to give Sligo the best possible start against Cup specialists Shamrock Rovers, with captain Tony Fagan completing the job with a free kick 'special'. "That win put us back on our feet," said Fagan. "The club was able to borrow money on the strength of being in the semi-final."

Sligo, drawn against non-League Cobh Ramblers in the semi-final,

thought they had got the easier half of the draw but that was far from the case. It took a goal in the last three minutes from sub Mick Graham to save Sligo in the first game at Flower Lodge, a 2–2 draw followed at the Showgrounds, then a 0–0 draw at Flower Lodge. At half-time in the third replay at the Showgrounds, Cobh led 2–0 and it looked all over for the men from the West. However, a quick goal on the resumption from centre-half Chris Rutherford and the backing of an enthusiastic crowd kept the pressure on Cobh. Rutherford struck again and then sub Gus Gilligan, who had only made a comeback the previous day in the reserves after recovering from a cartilege operation, netted the winner.

Sligo's luck seemed to have run out in the final when Rutherford had to be replaced in the first twenty minutes. Then Barry Murphy headed Bohemians into the lead and Sligo's centre-half Tony Stenson received a nasty cut on his leg, which threatened to end his involvement. The intervention of former trainer James Tiernan, who came down from the stand and insisted that Stenson would be in no danger if he played on, was vital. "A normal fellow would have come off," said captain Fagan, "but Stenson got about five stitches at half-time and played on. Being the Cup final, he wasn't going to go off – and then he hit the equaliser. After that Bohs lost all their rhythm and Harry scored a goal worthy of winning any Cup final."

McLoughlin's winning goal was straight from the coaching manual. He switched from the right wing to the left, ran on to a ball which Martin McDonnell had pushed down the wing and, as the Bohemians defenders backed off, he looked up, saw Dermot O'Neill slightly off his line, looked down and struck the ball with stunning accuracy into the far corner. It was third time lucky for McLoughlin, who had been signed from Sligo Boys' Club in 1977 as a 21-year-old and had suffered the disappointments of Cup final defeats in 1978 and 1981. For Tony Fagan it was even sweeter as he had also been on the losing side in 1970.

FIRST ROUND

February 5	**HOME FARM** 0	**SLIGO ROVERS** ..... 1 Elliott pen.
February 6	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 2 Wyse, Byrne	**BLUEBELL UNITED** 0
	COBH RAMBLERS ..... 2 McDaid, O'Halloran	**DUNDALK** ..... 1 Archbold
	FINN HARPS 0	**CIE MOSNEY** 0
	GALWAY UNITED ..... 1 Duff	**DROGHEDA UNITED** ..... 1 Dillon

	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 2 Synnott, Campbell	**RINGMAHON RANGERS** . 0
	SHELBOURNE 0	**BOHEMIANS** 0
	UCD 0	**LIMERICK UNITED** ..... 2 Duggan, Kennedy
	WATERFORD ..... 2 Gardiner, Coady	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 Davis, Cleary

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 9	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 Gannon o.g., O'Brien pen.	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 McCabe pen.
	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 1 Dillon	**GALWAY UNITED** 0
February 10	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 2 McKeon, Mahon pen.	**WATERFORD UNITED** .... 2 O'Mahony, Browne
	(After extra time.)	
February 16	**C.I.E. MOSNEY** 0	**FINN HARPS** 0
	(After extra time.)	

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAYS

February 15	**WATERFORD UNITED** .... 1 Breslin	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 1 Hennebry
	(After extra time.)	
February 23	**FINN HARPS** ..... 2 Bradley, Sheridan	**C.I.E. MOSNEY** 0

FIRST ROUND THIRD REPLAY

February 17	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** ..... 3 Cleary, Mahon, Tierney	**WATERFORD UNITED** .... 2 Coady, Madigan

SECOND ROUND

February 23	**ST. PATRICK'S ATH.** 0	**LIMERICK** ..... 1 Morris

THIRD ROUND

March 6	**ATHLONE TOWN** 0	**BOHEMIANS** ..... 2 O'Brien, Walker
	COBH RAMBLERS ..... 1 F. O'Neill	**FINN HARPS** 0
	LIMERICK UNITED 0	**DROGHEDA UNITED** ..... 1 Murray
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 McLoughlin, Fagan	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Buckley

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 3 — BOHEMIANS ..... 0 — DROGHEDA UNITED 0

SEMI-FINAL: FLOWER LODGE, CORK

April 3 — COBH RAMBLERS ..... 1 (O'Halloran pen.) — SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 (Graham)

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: ORIEL PARK, DUNDALK

April 6 — BOHEMIANS ..... 0 — DROGHEDA UNITED 0
(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: SHOWGROUNDS, SLIGO

April 6 — SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 (McLoughlin, Graham) — COBH RAMBLERS ..... 2 (Crowley, O'Flynn)
(After extra time.)

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

April 13 — BOHEMIANS ..... 3 (Jameson, Murphy, Doolin) — DROGHEDA UNITED 0

SEMI-FINAL SECOND REPLAY: FLOWER LODGE, CORK

April 13 — COBH RAMBLERS ..... 0 — SLIGO ROVERS 0

SEMI-FINAL THIRD REPLAY: SHOWGROUNDS

April 17 — SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 (Rutherford 2, Gilligan) — COBH RAMBLERS ..... 2 (F. O'Neill 2)

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 24 — SLIGO ROVERS ..... 2 (Stenson (58m.), McLoughlin (77m.)) — BOHEMIANS ..... 1 (Murphy (35m.))

Sligo Rovers: Colin Oakley, Mick Ferry, Chris Rutherford, Tony Stenson, Graham Fox, Mick Savage, Tony Fagan, Martin McDonnell, Harry McLoughlin, Gus Gilligan, Andy Elliott. *Sub.:* Paul Fielding for Rutherford, 19 mins.

Bohemians: Dermot O'Neill, Dave Connell, Barry Murphy, Alan Kinsella, Gino Lawless, Paul Doolin, Pat Walker, John Reynor, David 'Rocky' O'Brien, Jackie Jameson, Terry Eviston. *Subs.:* Donal Murphy for Eviston, 66 mins.; Mick Shelly for Reynor, 81 mins.

Attendance: 8,500 — **Receipts:** £22,000.

CHAPTER 63

1984: Tony O'Neill Vindicated

BY HIS own admission, Tony O'Neill was a 'brutal' player, so it is to his credit that he decided early on to channel his love of football in other directions. Careerwise, he qualified as a doctor and specialised in sports medicine, while hobbywise, he became involved in the running of University College Dublin's soccer club. Gradually the two complemented each other so well that it was hard to see where one began and the other left off.

O'Neill's early experience as an administrator was as Club Secretary for five years in the 1960s. Later he ran the club's Amateur League team for six years with some success and he was heavily involved in a succession of foreign tours to places like Australia, the United States, the Middle East, the Far East, and a history-making trip to China in 1976.

Meanwhile the club had become members of the League of Ireland's B Division in 1970 but had never managed anything better than a mid-table position. However, the feeling within the Committee was that the club should aspire to full League status. "In terms of facilities and participation we thought we could make a go of it, because we had seen it done in other countries," explained O'Neill, "but we didn't think it would happen so quickly."

In fact, League membership was sprung on the club in 1979 after their application had been turned down at the annual general meeting. Cork Celtic failed to get their house in order and were thrown out on July 19. As UCD's was the only application to hand, they were elected to take Celtic's place. "I was expecting to be appointed in charge of the League of Ireland B team – and it turned

U.C.D. 1984. From left, front row: Aidan Reynolds, John Cullen, Martin Moran, Paddy Dunning, Robbie Gaffney, Paul Roche, Keith Dignam. Back row: Frank Devlin, Alan O'Neill, Ken O'Doherty, Brendan Murphy, Joe Hanrahan, Robbie Lawlor [Sportsfile].

out to be the League of Ireland team, with Theo Dunne," recalled O'Neill.

Once in, UCD and O'Neill were never short of ideas to make up for their lack of players. An arrangement with Vancouver Whitecaps helped get the club over a tricky patch for a couple of years, while the soccer scholarship scheme was gradually producing players of League of Ireland ability. In their first and fourth seasons the club had to apply for re-election. The latter occasion prompted them to sign their first professionals.

It was a brave decision but one which brought quick reward as O'Neill appointed Dermot Keely player-manager and Keely signed goalkeeper Alan O'Neill, defenders Robbie Lawlor and Paddy Dunning, midfielder Robbie Gaffney and forward Frank Devlin. Even though Keely left in mid-season for Shamrock Rovers, the foundations had been laid which yielded FAI Cup glory, ironically at the expense of Keely and Rovers.

While their style of play may not have been attractive – dour defence allied to breakaway attacks – it was effective and was a case of the team playing to its strengths. Everton found this later in the Cup-winners' Cup when they scraped through on a 1–0 aggregate and their manager Howard Kendall paid the UCD defence a nice compliment when he stated later in that campaign that the Bayern Munich defence could hardly be any better than UCD's!

UCD ended Shamrock Rovers' long-running invincibility in Cup final replays but they almost lost the Cup as soon as they won it. Shortly after the game it was stolen from the boot of vice-chairman Tony Dunne's car. It was returned 24 hours later – but Dunne's car was found burnt out.

Both final goals for UCD were scored by players who had been on soccer scholarships and, to complete the double, they both graduated the same year. Ken O'Doherty, scorer of the winning goal, became the club's first big money transfer when he moved to Crystal Palace the following season, while Joe Hanrahan later moved to Manchester United.

FIRST ROUND

February 3	**BALLYFERMOT UNITED** .. 0	**BANK ROVERS** ..... 1 Cooke o.g.
February 5	**DROGHEDA UNITED** 0	**WATERFORD UNITED** .... 1 Bennett
	FINN HARPS ..... 3 Bradley, Travers, McLoughlin pen.	**BOHEMIANS** 0

	GALWAY UNITED ..... 4 Cassidy 2, Laffey, Duff	**CROFTON CELTIC** 0
	LIMERICK CITY ..... 1 Kennedy	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 1 Collins
	ST. MARY'S, ATHLONE ... 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 3 O'Brien, Campbell, McDonagh pen.
	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. ..... 2 Braddish, Malone	**HOME FARM** ..... 3 Swift, Conway 2
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Delamere	**DUNDALK** 0
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 3 O'Sullivan o.g., McGee, Savage	**UCD** ..... 3 Dignam, O'Doherty, Lawlor

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 8	**UCD** ..... 5 O'Sullivan 2, Devlin, O'Doherty pen., Hanrahan	**SLIGO ROVERS** 0
February 9	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 2 Collins, M. O'Connor pen.	**LIMERICK CITY** ..... 3 Kennedy, P. O'Connor o.g. Hulmes

SECOND ROUND

February 23	**BANK ROVERS** 0	**WATERFORD UNITED** .... 5 Bennett 3, Reid, Coady

THIRD ROUND

March 11	**HOME FARM** ..... 1 Duffy	**UCD** ..... 2 Martin o.g., Gaffney
	LIMERICK CITY 0	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Eviston
	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Joyce	**GALWAY UNITED** 0
	WATERFORD UNITED .... 2 Coady, Reid	**FINN HARPS** ..... 1 McGroarty

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 6	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Eccles	**SHELBOURNE** ..... 1 Joyce

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 8	**UCD** ..... 1 Hanrahan	**WATERFORD UNITED** 0

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 11	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Buckley	**SHELBOURNE** 0

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 29 — **UCD** ..... 0 — **SHAMROCK ROVERS** 0

UCD: Alan O'Neill, Robbie Lawlor, Ken O'Doherty, Paddy Dunning, Martin Moran, Robbie Gaffney, Keith Dignam, John Cullen, Aidan Reynolds, Frank Devlin, Joe Hanrahan. *Sub.:* Brendan Murphy for Reynolds, 78mins.

Shamrock Rovers: Jody Byrne, Anto Whelan, Jacko McDonagh, Dermot Keely, John Coady, Neville Steedman, Noel King, Pat Byrne, Mick Neville, Alan Campbell, Liam Buckley. *Sub.:* Terry Eviston for Whelan, 78 mins.

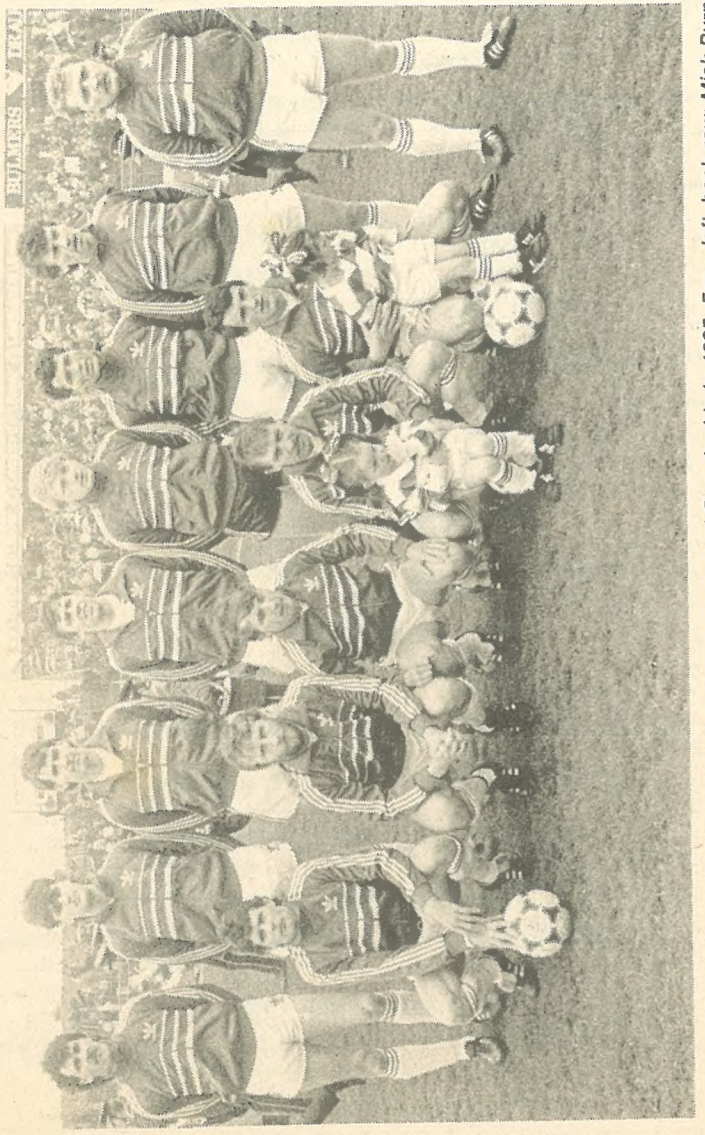
Attendance: 8,000 — **Receipts: Not available.**

FINAL REPLAY: TOLKA PARK

May 4 — **UCD** ..... 2 (Hanrahan (41m.), O'Doherty (95m.)) — **SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 (McDonagh pen. (75m.))

UCD: Brendan Murphy for Reynolds. **Shamrock Rovers:** Unchanged.

Attendance: 6,500 — **Receipts: Not available.**



The Shamrock Rovers team which completed the League and Cup double in 1985. From left, back row: Mick Byrne, Jacko McDonagh, Noel Larkin, Kevin Brady, Jody Byrne, Liam O'Brien, Peter Eccles, Neville Steedman. Front row: John Coady, Dermot Keely, Mick Neville, Pat Byrne, Noel King [Sportsfile]

CHAPTER 64

1985: McGuill Helps Rovers

DUNDALK director, Enda McGuill, helped smooth Shamrock Rovers' path to their twenty-second FAI Cup success in 1985 . . . by writing a letter to Athlone Town centre-forward Noel Larkin! Following a disagreement with manager Turlough O'Connor, Larkin decided he wasn't enjoying his football any more and announced his retirement. "I was out for three weeks and never did any training, let alone play a game, during that time," he said. "Then I got a letter from Enda McGuill which helped persuade me to come back. He said that it would be time enough for me to watch matches when I was forty but while I was still able to play I should be out there playing. That got me thinking and then Jim McLaughlin came on and asked me to sign for Rovers. It was the right team at the right time."

McLaughlin, who had earlier recommended Larkin to his old club Dundalk, needed a striker when close season signing Paul McGee decided to have another go at cross-channel football with Preston North End. Fortunately for McLaughlin, Larkin had turned down Dundalk's approach and he had also turned down Galway United. Ironically, Galway provided the opposition to Rovers in the Cup final – and Larkin hit the winner. An FAI Cup medal was the only domestic award missing from Larkin's collection from his spell with Athlone Town and, as Rovers completed the double, he also added another League medal to his trophy haul.

For the Bonner twins, Denis and Packie, 1985 was a special year. Denis lined out at centre-half for Galway United in the FAI Cup final, while Packie was in goal for Glasgow Celtic in the Scottish Cup final.

Unfortunately, Noel Larkin's goal spoiled a unique double, as Packie duly collected a winner's medal at Hampden Park. Both brothers attended their twin's Cup final but, whereas Packie's trip was paid for by the FAI as he was in Dublin for an international match, Denis had to travel to Scotland at his own expense.

Galway's march to the final was a success story for a number of people in particular. Eamonn Deacy, for instance, their rugged midfielder, had turned his back on a full-time career with Aston Villa in the English League to return to his native city. He had played for Limerick in their unsuccessful Cup final bid in 1977 and his experience was vital as Galway surprised many pundits with their Cup run, the highlights of which were undoubtedly the semi-final games with Limerick. Directors Joe Hanley and Mattie Greaney also deserved a lot of credit, having taken over a debt-ridden club and revived it mainly by introducing an all-Galway policy. Player-manager Tom Lally, who had kept goal in the 1970 and 1974 finals for unsuccessful Sligo Rovers and Saint Patrick's Athletic respectively, was the man who put that policy into operation with a playing style which won Galway United a lot of friends. Unfortunately, his Cup final luck was out for the third time.

Success for Shamrock Rovers brought more problems than accolades for manager Jim McLaughlin as the close season saw him lose influential midfielder and coach Noel King and international central defender Jacko McDonagh to French Second Division clubs. While McDonagh moved because he was unable to secure employment in Ireland, King was able to take leave of absence from his job to give full-time football and coaching a try.

FIRST ROUND

February 7	DUNDALK ..... 1 B. Wright	ST. PATRICK'S ATH. 0
February 10	AVONDALE UNITED 0	GALWAY UNITED ..... 4 Dowling o.g., Murphy, Gardiner pen., S. Lally
	BOHEMIANS 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
	CORK CITY ..... 2 Keane, Woodruff	BANK ROVERS 0
	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 2 Byrne, Dillon	FINN HARPS 0
	LIMERICK CITY 0	HOME FARM 0
	MERVUE UNITED ..... 1 Collins	UCD ..... 2 Hanrahan, Lawlor

	SHELBOURNE ..... 2 Joyce 2	LONGFORD TOWN ..... 1 Mahon
	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 Moylan	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Clarke
	WATERFORD UNITED .... 4 Madigan 2, McGee, McCarthy	HAMMOND LANE 0

FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

February 20	SHAMROCK ROVERS 0	BOHEMIANS 0
	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 M. O'Connor	SLIGO ROVERS ..... 1 McLoughlin
February 21	HOME FARM 0	LIMERICK CITY ..... 2 Gaynor 2

FIRST ROUND SECOND REPLAY

February 27	SLIGO ROVERS 0	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 3 P. O'Connor, Carroll, Clarke
February 28	BOHEMIANS 0	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 1 M. Byrne

SECOND ROUND

February 20	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 5 Collins 2, Fairclough, Dillon, Martin	CORK CITY ..... 3 McDermott 2, Parr
March 7	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 2 M. O'Connor, Coll	DUNDALK ..... 2 Laryea, McNulty

SECOND ROUND REPLAY

March 13	DUNDALK 0	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 1 Clarke

THIRD ROUND

March 17	DROGHEDA UNITED ..... 2 Dillon 2	SHAMROCK ROVERS ..... 3 Larkin 2, M. Byrne
	LIMERICK CITY ..... 3 Gaynor 2, Hulmes	WATERFORD UNITED .... 1 Morley
	SHELBOURNE 0	GALWAY UNITED 0
	UCD ..... 1 Dignam	ATHLONE TOWN ..... 3 M. O'Connor 2, Malone

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

March 21	GALWAY UNITED ..... 4 Bonner 2, Cassidy, Glynn	SHELBOURNE ..... 1 Mullen pen.

SEMI-FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 12	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 2 O'Brien, M. Byrne	**ATHLONE TOWN** ..... 1 Clarke	

SEMI-FINAL: TOLKA PARK

April 14	**GALWAY UNITED** ..... 2 Glynn, McDonnell	**LIMERICK CITY** ..... 2 Walsh 2	

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: ST. MEL'S PARK, ATHLONE

April 17	**GALWAY UNITED** ..... 1 Mannion	**LIMERICK CITY** 0	

(After extra time.)

FINAL: DALYMOUNT PARK

April 28	**SHAMROCK ROVERS** ..... 1 Larkin (57m.)	**GALWAY UNITED** 0	

Shamrock Rovers: Jody Byrne, Mick Neville, Dermot Keely, Jacko McDonagh, Kevin Brady, Liam O'Brien, Pat Byrne, Noel King, John Coady, Noel Larkin, Mick Byrne.

Galway United: Tom Lally, Gerry Daly, Brian Gardiner, Denis Bonner, Jimmy Nolan, Eamonn Deacy, John Mannion, Martin McDonnell, Paul Murphy, Kevin Cassidy, John Glynn. *Sub.*: Noel Mernagh for Glynn, 76 mins.

Attendance: 7,000 **Receipts: £22,842.**

Roll of Honour

22 – **Shamrock Rovers:** 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1945, 1948, 1955, 1956, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1978, 1985.

7 – **Dundalk:** 1942, 1949, 1952, 1958, 1977, 1979, 1981.

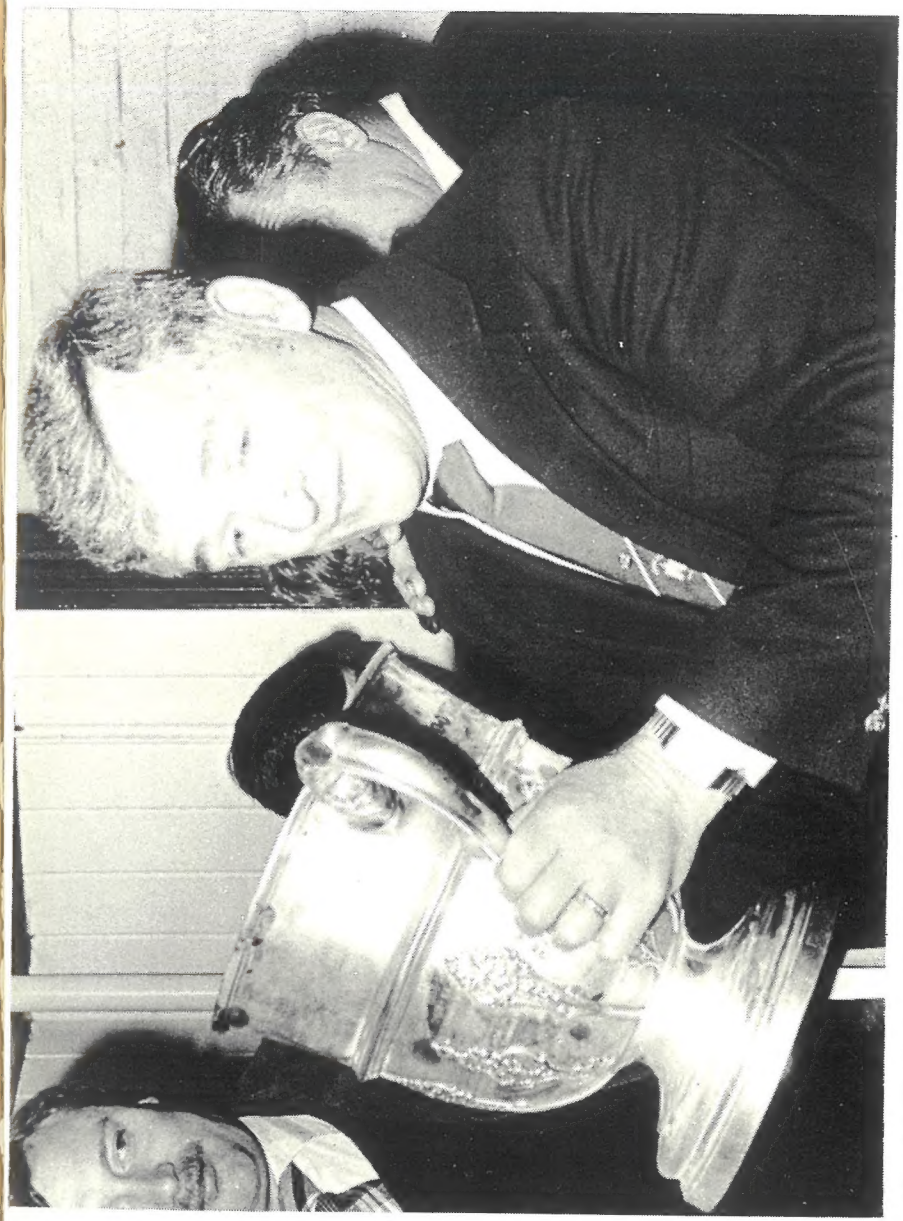
5 – **Drumcondra:** 1927, 1943, 1946, 1954, 1957.

4 – **Bohemians:** 1928, 1935, 1970, 1976.

3 – **Shelbourne:** 1939, 1960, 1963.

2 – **Cork Athletic:** 1951, 1953. **Cork Hibernians:** 1972, 1973. **Cork United:** 1941, 1947. **Limerick:** 1971, 1982. **Saint James's Gate:** 1922, 1938. **Saint Patrick's Athletic:** 1959, 1961. **Waterford:** 1937, 1980.

1 – **Alton United:** 1923. **Athlone Town:** 1924. **Cork:** 1934. **Finn Harps:** 1974. **Fordsons:** 1926. **Home Farm:** 1975. **Sligo Rovers:** 1983. **Transport:** 1950. **University College, Dublin:** 1984.



Limerick City Chairman Pat Grace seems to have discovered the truth of the maxim: Never drink out of the F.A.I. Cup. It has suffered numerous outrages at the hands of players and fans down through the years, the least of which was one